United Nations E/2008/INF/2/Add.1

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
15 August 2008

Original: English

Resolutions and decisions adopted by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2008

(30 June to 25 July 2008)

Note: The provisional texts of the resolutions and decisions adopted by the Council at its substantive session of 2008 are circulated herein for information. The final texts will be issued in *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 1* (E/2008/99).

08-46246 (E) 151008

Contents

Resolutions

Resolution number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2008/2	Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system (E/2008/L.12, as orally corrected, and E/2008/SR.34)	3 (a)	18 July 2008	12
2008/3	Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society (E/2008/31, chap. I, sect. A, and E/2008/SR.34)	13 (b)	18 July 2008	15
2008/4	Measures to improve the quadrennial reporting procedures (E/2008/32 (Part I), chap. I, sect. A, and E/2008/SR.37)	12	21 July 2008	19
2008/5	Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat (E/2008/L.9, chap. I, sect. A, and E/2008/SR.37)	12	21 July 2008	21
2008/6	The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States (E/2008/L.18 and E/2008/SR.38)	7 (c)	22 July 2008	23
2008/7	Restructuring of the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (E/2008/15/Add.1, sect. I.A, and E/2008/SR.38)	10	22 July 2008	24
2008/8	Admission of the Sudan as a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (E/2008/15/Add.1, sect. I.B, and E/2008/SR.38)	10	22 July 2008	33
2008/9	Venue of the thirty-third session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (E/2008/15/Add.2, sect. I, and E/2008/SR.38)	10	22 July 2008	33
2008/10	Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti (E/2008/L.15 and E/2008/SR.40)	7 (d)	23 July 2008	34
2008/11	Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women (E/2008/27, chap. I, sect. B, and E/2008/SR.40)	14 (a)	23 July 2008	35
2008/12	Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its tenth session (E/2008/L.23 and E/2008/SR.41)	13 (a)	23 July 2008	38

Resolution number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2008/13	Protection against products harmful to health and the environment (E/2008/L.21 and E/2008/SR.41)	13 (e)	23 July 2008	39
2008/14	Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development (E/2008/L.16, as orally revised, and E/2008/SR.42)	6 (a)	24 July 2008	39
2008/15	Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations (E/2008/L.17 and E/2008/SR.42)	9	24 July 2008	40
2008/16	Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters (E/2008/L.27 and E/2008/SR.42)	13 (h)	24 July 2008	44
2008/17	Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (E/2008/26, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (b)	24 July 2008	46
2008/18	Promoting full employment and decent work for all (E/2008/26, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (b)	24 July 2008	50
2008/19	Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development (E/2008/26, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution III, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (b)	24 July 2008	56
2008/20	Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights (E/2008/26, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution IV, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (b)	24 July 2008	57
2008/21	Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda (E/2008/26, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution V, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (b)	24 July 2008	59
2008/22	Preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/2008/30, chap. I, sect. A, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (c)	24 July 2008	62
2008/23	Protection against trafficking in cultural property (E/2008/30, chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution I, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (c)	24 July 2008	66
2008/24	Strengthening prevention of urban crime: an integrated approach (E/2008/30, chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution II, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (c)	24 July 2008	69

Resolution number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2008/25	International cooperation in preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources (E/2008/30, chap. I, sect. B, draft resolution III, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (c)	24 July 2008	70
2008/26	Promoting sustainability and integrality in alternative development as an important part of drug control strategy in States where illicit crops are grown to produce drugs (E/2008/28, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution I, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (d)	24 July 2008	72
2008/27	Provision of international assistance to the most affected States neighbouring Afghanistan (E/2008/28, chap. I, sect. A, draft resolution II, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (d)	24 July 2008	77
2008/28	The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development, adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2007 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2008/L.22, as orally corrected, and E/2008/SR.43)	4	24 July 2008	79
2008/29	Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16 (E/2008/L.29 and E/2008/SR.43)	4	24 July 2008	81
2008/30	Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau (E/2008/L.34 and E/2008/SR.44)	7 (f)	25 July 2008	83
2008/31	Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (E/2008/L.26, as orally revised, and E/2008/SR.44)	11	25 July 2008	84
2008/32	Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its seventh session (E/2008/L.33 and E/2008/SR.44)	13 (g)	25 July 2008	89
2008/33	Strengthening coordination of the United Nations and other efforts in fighting trafficking in persons (E/2008/L.31, as orally revised, and E/2008/SR.44)	14	25 July 2008	91

Resolution number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2008/34	**Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system (E/2008/L.32 and E/2008/SR.44)**	14 (a)	25 July 2008	93
2008/35	**United Nations Institute for Training and Research (E/2008/L.37 and E/2008/SR.44)**	15	25 July 2008	97
2008/36	**Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations (E/2008/L.28, as orally revised, and E/2008/SR.45)**	5	25 July 2008	98
2008/37	**Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (E/2008/L.38 and E/2008/SR.45)**	6 (b)	25 July 2008	102

Decisions

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2008/201 E	Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Economic and Social Council (E/2008/SR.29 and 32)	1	11 and 16 July 2008	107
2008/214	Agenda and organization of work for the substantive session of 2008 of the Economic and Social Council (E/2008/100, E/2008/82, E/2008/L.5, E/2008/L.6, E/2008/CRP.1 and E/2008/SR.12)	1	30 June 2008	108
2008/215	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation (E/2007/35, E/2008/36, E/2008/5, E/2008/6-E/ICEF/2008/3 and Corr.1, E/2008/14, E/2008/34 (Part I)-E/ICEF/2008/7 (Part I), E/2008/34 (Part I)/Add.1-E/ICEF/2008/7 (Part I)/Add.1, E/2008/L.8, E/2008/CRP.4 and E/2008/SR.34)	3 (a) and (b)	18 July 2008	108
2008/216	Document considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels (A/63/72-E/2008/48 and E/2008/SR.34)	4 and 13 (b)	18 July 2008	109
2008/217	Participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions (E/2008/31, chap. I, sect. B, draft decision I, and E/2008/SR.34)	13 (b)	18 July 2008	109
2008/218	Participation of academic entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development (E/2008/31, chap. I, sect. B, draft decision II, and E/2008/SR.34)	13 (b)	18 July 2008	110
2008/219	Report of the Secretary-General on science, technology and innovation to be submitted to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twelfth session (E/2008/31, chap. I, sect. B, draft decision III, and E/2008/SR.34)	13 (b)	18 July 2008	111

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2008/220	Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twelfth session of the Commission (E/2008/31, chap. I, sect. B, draft decision IV, and E/2008/SR.34)	13 (b)	18 July 2008	111
2008/221	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with coordination and programme questions (E/2008/58, A/63/16 and E/2008/SR.36)	7 (a)	21 July 2008	112
2008/222	Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations (E/2008/32 (Part I), chap. I, sect. B, draft decision I, and E/2008/SR.37)	12	21 July 2008	112
2008/223	Application of American Sports Committee (E/2008/32 (Part I), chap. I, sect. B, draft decision III, and E/2008/SR.37)	12	21 July 2008	117
2008/224	Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2008 regular session (E/2008/32 (Part I), chap. I, sect. B, draft decision IV, and E/2008/SR.37)	12	21 July 2008	117
2008/225	Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations (E/2008/L.9, chap. I, sect. B, draft decision I, and E/2008/SR.37)	12	21 July 2008	117
2008/226	Application of the non-governmental organization Human Rights Foundation for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council (E/2008/L.9, chap. I, sect. B, draft decision II, and E/2008/SR.37)	12	21 July 2008	124
2008/227	Complaint against the non-governmental organization World Union for Progressive Judaism (E/2008/L.9, chap. I, sect. B, draft decision III, and E/2008/SR.37)	12	21 July 2008	124
2008/228	Dates of and provisional agenda for the 2009 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations (E/2008/L.9, chap. I, sect. B, draft decision IV, as orally amended, and E/2008/SR.37)	12	21 July 2008	124

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2008/229	Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2008 session (E/2008/L.9, chap. I, sect. B, draft decision V, and E/2008/SR.37)	12	21 July 2008	125
2008/230	Application of the non-governmental organization Federación Estatal de Lesbianas, Gays, Transexuales y Bisexuales (E/2008/L.13 and E/2008/SR.38)	12	22 July 2008	126
2008/231	Smoke-free United Nations premises (E/2008/L.19 and E/2008/SR.39)	7 (g)	22 July 2008	126
2008/232	Report of the Secretary-General on the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control (E/2008/59 and E/2008/SR.39)	7 (g)	22 July 2008	126
2008/233	Genetic privacy and non-discrimination (E/2008/L.20 and E/2008/SR.39)	14 (i)	22 July 2008	126
2008/234	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with regional cooperation (E/2008/15 and Add.1 and 2, E/2008/16, E/2008/17, E/2008/18, E/2008/19, E/2008/20 and E/2008/SR.40)	10	23 July 2008	127
2008/235	Agreed conclusions on financing gender equality and the empowerment of women (E/2008/27, chap. I, sect. A, and E/2008/SR.40)	14 (a)	23 July 2008	128
2008/236	Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-third session of the Commission (E/2008/27, chap. I, sect. C, as orally corrected, and E/2008/SR.40)	14 (a)	23 July 2008	136
2008/237	Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its sixteenth session and provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission (E/2008/29, chap. I, sect. A, and E/2008/SR.41)	13 (a)	23 July 2008	137
2008/238	Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for the fortieth session of the Commission (E/2008/24, chap. I, sect. A, and E/2008/SR.41)	13 (c)	23 July 2008	138
2008/239	Human settlements (E/2008/L.24 and E/2008/SR.41)	13 (d)	23 July 2008	142

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2008/240	Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-first session and provisional agenda for its forty-second session (E/2008/25, chap. I, sect. A, and E/2008/SR.41)	13 (f)	23 July 2008	143
2008/241	Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names (E/2008/L.25 and E/2008/SR.41)	13 (j)	23 July 2008	144
2008/242	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the environment and cartography (A/63/25, E/2007/89 and E/2008/SR.41)	13 (e) and (j)	23 July 2008	144
2008/243	Document considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations (A/63/75-E/2008/52 and E/2008/SR.42)	9	24 July 2008	145
2008/244	Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-seventh session of the Commission (E/2008/26, chap. I, sect. B, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (b)	24 July 2008	145
2008/245	Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventeenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the eighteenth session of the Commission (E/2008/30, chap. I, sect. C, draft decision I, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (c)	24 July 2008	147
2008/246	Appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (E/2008/30, chap. I, sect. C, draft decision II, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (c)	24 July 2008	150
2008/247	Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-second session of the Commission (E/2008/28, chap. I, sect. B, draft decision I, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (d)	24 July 2008	150

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2008/248	Report of the International Narcotics Control Board (E/2008/28, chap. I, sect. B, draft decision II, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (d)	24 July 2008	153
2008/249	International expert group meeting on the implementation of article 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (E/2008/43, chap. I, sect. A, draft decision I, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (h)	24 July 2008	153
2008/250	Venue and dates of the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2008/43, chap. I, sect. A, draft decision II, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (h)	24 July 2008	153
2008/251	Provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (E/2008/43, chap. I, sect. A, draft decision III, and E/2008/SR.42)	14 (h)	24 July 2008	153
2008/252	Document considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2007 of the Council (E/2008/21 and E/2008/SR.43)	4	24 July 2008	154
2008/253	Document considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan (A/63/74-E/2008/21 and E/2008/SR.44)	11	25 July 2008	154
2008/254	Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its seventh session and provisional agenda for its eighth session (E/2008/L.30 and E/2008/SR.44)	13 (g)	25 July 2008	155
2008/255	Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (E/2008/L.11 and E/2008/SR.44)	14 (e)	25 July 2008	155

Decision number	*Title*	*Agenda item*	*Date adopted*	*Page*
2008/256	Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with social and human rights questions (A/63/41, E/2008/22, E/2008/43, A/63/83-E/2008/77, E/2008/62, E/2008/73, E/2008/76, E/2008/91 and E/2008/SR.44)	14 and 14 (a), (e), (g) and (h)	25 July 2008	156
2008/257	Theme for the 2009 thematic discussion of the Economic and Social Council (E/2008/L.35 and E/2008/SR.45)	1	25 July 2008	156
2008/258	Multi-year programme of work for the 2010 and 2011 annual ministerial reviews of the Economic and Social Council (E/2008/L.36 and E/2008/SR.45)	1	25 July 2008	157
2008/259	Document considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance (A/63/84-E/2008/80 and E/2008/SR.45)	5	25 July 2008	157

Resolutions

2008/2
Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/208 of 19 December 2007 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,

Reaffirming the importance of the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development, through which the General Assembly establishes key system-wide policy orientations for the development cooperation and country-level modalities of the United Nations system,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing coordination and guidance to the United Nations system to ensure that policy orientations set out by the General Assembly are implemented on a system-wide basis in accordance with Assembly resolutions 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 61/16 of 20 November 2006, 62/208 and other relevant resolutions,

Management process for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the management process for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208 on the triennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system,[1] and the efforts of the Secretary-General to strengthen the results-orientation of that report, in line with paragraph 141 of General Assembly resolution 62/208;

2. *Notes* the response of the United Nations system in implementing General Assembly resolution 62/208 at the agency and inter-agency levels, as specified in the above-mentioned report of the Secretary-General, and requests the United Nations system to pursue the management process for the implementation of General Assembly resolution 62/208;

3. *Reiterates* the call of the General Assembly for the governing bodies of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations development system to take appropriate actions for the full implementation of resolution 62/208;

4. *Also reiterates* the requests of the General Assembly to the executive heads of those organizations to report annually to their governing bodies on measures taken and envisaged for the implementation of the resolution on the triennial comprehensive policy review;

5. *Reaffirms* that the fundamental characteristics of the operational activities for development of the United Nations system should be, inter alia, their universal, voluntary and grant nature, their neutrality and multilateralism, and their

[1] E/2008/49.

ability to respond to the development needs of programme countries in a flexible manner, and that the operational activities are carried out for the benefit of programme countries, at the request of those countries and in accordance with their own policies and priorities for development;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, as called for in paragraph 142 of resolution 62/208, to submit to the Economic and Social Council, at its substantive session of 2009, a detailed report on results achieved and measures and processes implemented in follow-up to that resolution in order for the Council to evaluate the implementation of the resolution, with a view to ensuring its full implementation;

7. *Also requests* the Secretary-General, in responding to paragraph 142 of General Assembly resolution 62/208, to strengthen efforts to identify results and fine-tune targets, benchmarks and time frames;

8. *Recalls* the request of the General Assembly to the Secretary-General, in paragraph 125 of Assembly resolution 62/208, to prepare a report identifying human resources challenges within the development system at the country level and formulating recommendations for improvements, and requests the Secretary-General, in consultation with the International Civil Service Commission, to submit that report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009 and to cover in the report the issues raised in paragraph 126 of Assembly resolution 62/208;

9. *Welcomes* the ongoing efforts of the United Nations system to achieve an upward trend and an expanding base of financial support for operational activities for development, and requests the United Nations system to pursue and consult with Member States on efforts to increase resources and achieve a better balance between core/regular funding and non-core/extrabudgetary funding;

10. *Requests* the United Nations system, in line with paragraphs 45 and 46 of General Assembly resolution 62/208, to undertake concrete efforts, in consultation with Member States, to support capacity-building for development, the promotion and transfer of new and emerging technologies to programme countries, and the facilitation of access of developing countries to new and emerging technologies in support of operational activities for development;

11. *Reaffirms* paragraph 139 of General Assembly resolution 62/208, and in this regard takes note of the seminar of the "programme country pilots" on the theme "Delivering as one: exchange of experiences and lessons learned", held in Maputo, Mozambique, from 21 to 23 May 2008;[2]

Functioning of the resident coordinator system, including its costs and benefits

12. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the functioning of the resident coordinator system, including costs and benefits;[3]

13. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his annual report on the functioning of the resident coordinator system, to report on the participation and support to the functioning of the resident coordinator system of the United Nations system, including the non-resident agencies, and on progress in enhancing development

[2] See A/63/85-E/2008/83.

[3] E/2008/60.

impact, coherence, effectiveness and efficiency and costs and benefits of coordination through the resident coordinator system, with specific attention to the regional and country levels;

14. *Requests* the heads of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies and other United Nations organizations to include in the annual reports to their governing bodies any proposed measures to enhance their respective organization's participation in financial, technical and organizational support to the resident coordinator system;

15. *Underscores* that the resident coordinator, supported by the United Nations country team, should report to national authorities on progress made against results agreed in the United Nations Development Assistance Framework;

16. *Encourages* the United Nations Development Group, within the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination and in close cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, to further develop approaches to measure and report on the costs and benefits of coordination, and further encourages the Secretary-General to consolidate this information, to the extent possible, and present it to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive sessions of 2009 and 2010;

17. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in his response to paragraph 94 of General Assembly resolution 62/208, to bear in mind the various coordination functions of the resident coordinators;

Comprehensive statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2006

18. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the comprehensive statistical analysis of the financing of operational activities for development of the United Nations system for 2006,[4] and recognizes the progress made to broaden and improve the reporting in line with paragraph 28 of General Assembly resolution 62/208;

19. *Encourages* the organizations of the United Nations development system to participate fully in this exercise;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General, making use of existing capacities within the Secretariat and, if necessary, voluntary contributions, to continue efforts:

(a) To continue to broaden and improve the coverage, timeliness, reliability, quality and comparability of system-wide financial data, definitions and classifications for the financial reporting of operational activities for development of the United Nations system, in a coherent way;

(b) To build a comprehensive, sustainable and consistent financial data and reporting system for the operational activities for development of all the relevant organizations and entities of the United Nations system;

(c) To invite Member States to contribute to the support of the work mentioned above;

[4] A/63/71-E/2008/46.

Simplification and harmonization of the United Nations development system

21. *Takes note* of the actions taken by the executive boards and governing bodies of the United Nations funds and programmes and specialized agencies in the area of simplification and harmonization of the United Nations development system;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to make every effort to ensure that the information provided in response to paragraph 112 of General Assembly resolution 62/208 is presented at future sessions of the Economic and Social Council in the form of a report;

23. *Requests* the executive heads of the funds, programmes and specialized agencies to report in a timely manner to the executive boards and governing bodies on progress regarding simplification and harmonization to support the assessment by the executive boards and governing bodies in this area.

34th plenary meeting
18 July 2008

2008/3
Assessment of the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society,[5]

Recalling also that access to information and sharing and creation of knowledge contributes significantly to strengthening economic, social and cultural development, thus helping all countries to reach the internationally agreed development goals and objectives, including the Millennium Development Goals, considering that this process can be enhanced by removing barriers to universal, ubiquitous, equitable and affordable access to information, and underlining the importance of removing barriers to bridging the digital divide, particularly those that hinder the full achievement of the economic, social and cultural development of countries and the welfare of their people, in particular in developing countries,

Recognizing the efforts by all stakeholders to implement the outcomes of the two phases of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recognizing also the efforts of the United Nations organizations and programmes and of all the regional commissions in implementing the goals, commitments and recommendations of the World Summit on the Information Society,

Recalling its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 on the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and the mandate that it gave to the Commission,

[5] See A/C.2/59/3, annex, and A/60/687; the outcome documents are also available at http://www.itu.int/WSIS/index.html.

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 57/270 B of 23 June 2003 and Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/29 of 27 July 2007,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,[6]

Evolving challenges and opportunities

1. *Notes* that the digital divide is changing in some respects and that while in general the divide may be shrinking, a new form of digital divide is emerging in terms of difference in quality and speed of access to information and communications technologies;

2. *Also notes* the continuing relevance of assisting developing countries in their efforts to overcome the digital divide, particularly with regard to both access and capacity;

3. *Further notes* that the disparity continues between developed and developing countries in respect of the cost and quality of access and that in developed, high-income economies, the average cost of a broadband connection is significantly less than in developing countries, both in nominal terms and as a percentage of the average monthly income;

4. *Notes* that the gender divide still persists in respect of the quality and variety of means of access to the Internet and information and communications technologies in the building of the information society in both developed and developing countries;

5. *Also notes* the strong growth of mobile telephony subscriptions, especially in developing countries;

6. *Notes with concern* the growing number of incidents affecting global network safety and security and provoking service outages in large regions of the world;

7. *Notes* that in many countries there is inadequate coherence and complementarity between national information and communications technology policies and national development and poverty reduction strategies and that, especially in the poorer rural areas, the potential of the Internet and information and communications technologies in general for promoting development has not yet been fully utilized;

8. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to increase efforts towards funding of and investment in information and communications technologies in order to advance broadband access, including wireless access, in areas and countries in which it is still limited or non-existent;

9. *Calls upon* all States, in building the information society, to take steps with a view to avoiding and to refrain from taking any unilateral measure not in accordance with international law and the Charter of the United Nations that impedes the full achievement of economic and social development by the population of the affected countries and that hinders their well-being;

---

[6] A/63/72-E/2008/48.

10. *Reaffirms* that the protection of intellectual property is important for encouraging innovation and creativity in the information society, that, similarly, the wide dissemination, diffusion and sharing of knowledge is important for encouraging innovation and creativity, and that facilitating meaningful participation by all in intellectual property issues and knowledge-sharing through full awareness and capacity-building is a fundamental function of an inclusive information society;

11. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to increase their efforts to reduce the disparity in cost of access, through, for example, the establishment of Internet exchange points and the creation of a competitive environment, at both the backbone network and local levels;

12. *Recommends* that all States strive for gender equality in access to the Internet and in building the information society in both developed and developing countries, through ensuring the inclusion of the gender approach in information and communications technology policies in national strategies;

13. *Calls upon* all stakeholders to continue the development and spread of easy-to-use applications and services for mobile phones and related devices, especially those that are useful in rural areas and work with low bandwidth and high latency;

14. *Also calls upon* all stakeholders to cooperate more closely in making global networks more stable, resilient and secure and in overcoming outages of, incidents affecting and attacks on these networks;

15. *Calls upon* international and regional organizations to assess and report on a regular basis on the universal accessibility of nations to information and communications technologies, with the aim of creating equitable opportunities for the growth of the information and communications technology sectors of developing countries;

16. *Recommends* the mainstreaming of information and communications technology policies into national development or poverty reduction strategies, in accordance with the priorities of countries;

17. *Also recommends* increased international cooperation at all levels and among all stakeholders to help rural areas access and benefit from the Internet and information and communications technologies in general;

Successes and shortcomings to date in respect of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society

18. *Takes note with appreciation* of the ongoing work of the Internet Governance Forum, its multi-stakeholder approach and its innovative platform and expresses its thanks to host Governments for their contributions;

19. *Acknowledges* the progress made towards developing multilingual capabilities on the Internet;

20. *Also acknowledges* the work of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communications Technologies for Development on developing indicators for further consideration and decision by the Statistical Commission;

21. *Notes* the lack of indicators needed to measure progress towards achieving the targets as set out in section B of the Plan of Action adopted by the

World Summit on the Information Society at its first phase, held in Geneva from 10 to 12 December,[7] and endorsed by the General Assembly;[8]

22. *Takes note* of the efforts undertaken by the regional commissions in respect of the coordination of the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, including in developing e-strategies, capacity-building and measuring of information and communications technologies;

23. *Acknowledges* the efforts of all action line facilitators, especially the International Telecommunication Union and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization in their role as lead facilitators;

24. *Notes* that the architecture for the implementation of the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society, as defined in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society,[9] is rather complex and has also imposed limitations in respect of the participation of all stakeholders, in particular those from developing countries;

25. *Takes note* of the letter from the Secretary-General of the United Nations addressed to relevant organizations responsible for essential tasks associated with the Internet in which he requested them to report on the steps they had taken towards achieving enhanced cooperation in accordance with paragraph 71 of the Tunis Agenda and looks forward to the report to be prepared by the Secretary-General, which may contain recommendations on how the process should be pursued, and notes that all stakeholders, in their respective roles, will be included in this process;

26. *Reaffirms* the relevance of decisions on Internet governance in their entirety, as outlined in the Tunis Agenda;

27. *Recommends* that the Internet Governance Forum, as a multi-stakeholder discussion forum, retain its focus on public policy issues related to Internet governance;

28. *Encourages* collaboration among all stakeholders, including international organizations, consistent with their mandate and existing budgetary resources, in regard to the multilingualization of the Internet;

29. *Recommends* that the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development consider the creation of benchmarks and indicators, including impact indicators, for further consideration and decision by the Statistical Commission, in order to track progress towards the attainment of the specific goals and targets set out in the outcome documents of the World Summit on the Information Society, particularly section B of the Plan of Action adopted in Geneva;

30. *Also recommends* that action line facilitators, in cooperation with all stakeholders, establish milestones, deadlines and calendars for their action lines, taking into account the outcome documents of the Summit;

---

[7] See A/C.2/59/3, annex.

[8] See General Assembly resolution 59/220.

[9] See chap. I, sect. B, of the report of the Tunis phase of the World Summit on the Information Society, held in Tunis from 16 to 18 November 2005, as contained in document A/60/687.

31. *Further recommends* that lead facilitators conduct open-ended multi-stakeholder consultations with a view to improving the effectiveness and coherence of the annual clustering of activities related to the World Summit on the Information Society;

32. *Recommends* that the United Nations Group on the Information Society organize focused, open-ended multi-stakeholder consultations on the implementation of paragraphs 3 to 28 of the Tunis Agenda, concerning financial mechanisms for meeting the challenges of information and communications technologies for development;

33. *Also recommends* the introduction in the facilitation process of electronic collaboration tools such as mailing lists, Web 2.0 applications, observatories and clearing-house models in order to enhance multi-stakeholder participation, in particular from developing countries;

34. *Further recommends* that in submitting their reports to the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, action line facilitators bring to the attention of the Commission obstacles and difficulties encountered by all stakeholders in regard to the commitments and recommendations pertaining to their respective action line at the regional and international levels and make proposals to the Commission for possible action, whenever deemed necessary;

35. *Invites* all actors and institutions involved in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society to clarify further their respective roles, improve coordination and information-sharing and build synergies to make the most effective use of available resources;

36. *Invites* the international community to make voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development to support the review and assessment work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in regard to the follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society;

37. *Recommends* that all stakeholders redouble their efforts to implement the vision of the World Summit on the Information Society of a people-centred, inclusive and development-oriented information society, so as to enhance digital opportunities for all people and help bridge the digital divide.

34th plenary meeting
18 July 2008

2008/4
Measures to improve the quadrennial reporting procedures

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 on the consultative relationship between the United Nations and non-governmental organizations,

Reaffirming its resolution 1996/31, in which it established that one of the primary purposes of the consultative arrangement is to secure expert information or advice from organizations whose special competence and/or activities in areas of

direct relevance to the aims and purposes of the United Nations qualified them to make a significant contribution to the work of the Economic and Social Council,

Mindful of the importance of an efficient and effective quadrennial reporting and review system to ensure the smooth functioning of a dynamic and productive consultative arrangement as set out in its resolution 1996/31,

Emphasizing that the quadrennial reporting exercise mandated under resolution 1996/31 constitutes the only formal monitoring mechanism established to enable the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to confirm the continued existence and activity of a non-governmental organization and to determine that the organization conforms at all times to the principles governing the establishment and nature of its consultative relationship,

Recalling, in particular, paragraphs 55, 57 (c) and 61 (c) of its resolution 1996/31, which set out the responsibility of non-governmental organizations in general or special consultative status to submit quadrennial reports and the basis for the suspension or withdrawal of such consultative status for those organizations that fail to make any positive or effective contribution to the work of the United Nations,

Expressing serious concern at the unsatisfactory submission of quadrennial reports,

1. *Decides* that the procedure for the submission of quadrennial reports for a non-governmental organization in general or special consultative status shall be as follows:

(a) Six months prior to the due date for the report, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat shall write to the non-governmental organization concerned to remind it of the reporting requirement, the expected date of the submission of the report and the penalties for non-reporting, as stipulated in the present resolution in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31;

(b) One month after the due date for the report, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section shall send a notice to the non-governmental organization concerned reminding it of the reporting requirement and of the penalties for non-reporting, and requesting that the report be submitted by the first day of the following January;

(c) If the outstanding report is not received by the first day of the following January, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section shall send a final letter to the non-governmental organization concerned, requesting that the report be submitted by the first day of the following May and warning that non-receipt of the report by that date shall result in the suspension of consultative status, and shall copy the letter to the Permanent Mission to the United Nations of the country where the non-governmental organization has its headquarters;

(d) If no report is received by the first day of the following May, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall, at its resumed session, compile a list of all non-governmental organizations with outstanding reports and recommend to the Economic and Social Council the immediate suspension of their consultative status for a period of one year;

(e) Following a decision by the Economic and Social Council to suspend the consultative status of any non-governmental organization with an outstanding report, the Non-Governmental Organizations Section shall write to the non-governmental organization concerned advising it of the suspension, requesting the submission of the outstanding report by the first day of May of the following year and warning that failure to submit the report by such time shall result in the withdrawal of consultative status, and shall copy the letter to the Permanent Mission to the United Nations of the country where the non-governmental organization has its headquarters;

(f) At its resumed session to be held the following May, the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations shall review the status of reporting of the non-governmental organizations whose consultative status had been suspended and shall recommend to the Economic and Social Council either the reinstatement of consultative status for any non-governmental organization that submitted its report thereafter or the withdrawal of consultative status for any non-governmental organization with a continued outstanding report;

2. *Reiterates* that, in accordance with paragraph 56 of its resolution 1996/31, in cases where the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations has decided to recommend that the general or special consultative status of a non-governmental organization or its listing on the Roster be suspended or withdrawn, the non-governmental organization concerned shall have an opportunity to present its response for appropriate consideration by the Committee as expeditiously as possible;

3. *Also reiterates* that, in accordance with paragraph 59 of its resolution 1996/31, a non-governmental organization whose consultative status or whose listing on the Roster is withdrawn may be entitled to reapply for consultative status or for inclusion on the Roster not sooner than three years after the effective date of such withdrawal;

4. *Requests* the Non-Governmental Organizations Section to ensure that the revised guidelines are clearly posted on the Section's website and included in the initial letter sent to each non-governmental organization that has been granted general or special consultative status.

37th plenary meeting
21 July 2008

2008/5
Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the provisions of its resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 on the consultative relationship between the Economic and Social Council and non-governmental organizations,

Aware of the evolving relationship between the United Nations and the non-governmental organizations community, reflecting the broader and more substantive involvement of non-governmental organizations with the Economic and Social Council and the United Nations at large,

Mindful of the significantly large increase in the number of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that has occurred in recent years and conscious that the number will continue to increase in the foreseeable future,

Mindful also of the demands that the participation of the expansion of non-governmental organizations places on the workload and resources of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat,

Recalling paragraph 68 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 regarding the requirement for adequate Secretariat support to fulfil the mandate defined for the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations with respect to carrying out the wider range of activities in which the enhanced involvement of non-governmental organizations was envisaged,

Recalling the regular programme of technical cooperation under section 22 of the programme budget of the United Nations,

Emphasizing the need to ensure that the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs is able to operate efficiently in carrying out its mandate at the optimum level of performance,

Emphasizing also the need to strengthen partnership with the civil society as emphasized by the Secretary-General within the reform of the United Nations by integrating analytical capacity with technical cooperation activities for greater effectiveness and efficiency,

1. *Regrets* the weak capacity of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and requests the Secretary-General to ensure the full utilization of the resources allocated to it as well as the filling of all vacant posts and to report on proposals to further strengthen the capacity of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section within the context of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2010-2011 and the maintenance of the institutional memory of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section, thereby making full use of lessons learned and best practices within the Section so as to enable it to carry out its responsibilities efficiently and effectively;

2. *Recommends* that a technical cooperation programme be established for the Non-Governmental Organizations Section aiming at providing advisory services, the conduct of capacity-building workshops designed to launch the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network (UN-NGO-IRENE), at regional, subregional and national levels, and the development of training materials and the promotion of pilot joint partnership initiatives, projects and programmes involving the United Nations, the civil society and Governments worldwide, especially for the countries most in need.

37th plenary meeting
21 July 2008

2008/6
The need to harmonize and improve United Nations informatics systems for optimal utilization and accessibility by all States

The Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the field of informatics[10] and the initiatives of the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics,

Recognizing the interest of Member States in taking full advantage of information and communications technologies for the acceleration of economic and social development,

Recalling its previous resolutions on the need to harmonize and improve United Nations information systems for optimal utilization and access by all States, with due regard to all the official languages,[11]

Welcoming the intensification of efforts by the Information Technology Services Division of the Department of Management of the Secretariat to provide interconnectivity and unhindered Internet access to all Permanent and Observer Missions at the United Nations,

1. *Reiterates once again* the high priority that it attaches to easy, economical, uncomplicated and unhindered access for States Members of the United Nations and Observers, as well as non-governmental organizations accredited to the United Nations, to the computerized databases and information systems and services of the United Nations, provided that the unhindered access of non-governmental organizations to such databases, systems and services will not prejudice the access of Member States nor impose an additional financial burden for their use;

2. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to convene the Ad Hoc Open-ended Working Group on Informatics for one more year to enable it to carry out, from within existing resources, the due fulfilment of the provisions of the Council resolutions on this item, to facilitate the successful implementation of the initiatives being taken by the Secretary-General with regard to the use of information technology and to continue the implementation of measures required to achieve its objectives and, in that regard, requests the Working Group to continue its efforts to act as a bridge between the evolving needs of Member States and the actions of the Secretariat, and also requests the Working Group to consider its future role, status and mandate and develop findings in that regard;

3. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretariat for the continuing cooperation that it is extending to the Working Group in the endeavour to further improve the information technology services available to all Permanent and Observer Missions at the United Nations and, in particular, for upgrading and

---

[10] E/2008/65.

[11] Resolutions 1991/70 of 26 July 1991, 1992/60 of 31 July 1992, 1993/56 of 29 July 1993, 1994/46 of 29 July 1994, 1995/61 of 28 July 1995, 1996/35 of 25 July 1996, 1997/1 of 18 July 1997, 1998/29 of 29 July 1998, 1999/58 of 30 July 1999, 2000/28 of 28 July 2000, 2001/24 of 26 July 2001, 2002/35 of 26 July 2002, 2003/48 of 24 July 2003, 2004/51 of 23 July 2004, 2005/12 of 22 July 2005, 2006/35 of 27 July 2006 and 2007/14 of 26 July 2007.

stabilizing the e-mail services for delegates and for upgrading web-based services, such as the CandiWeb elections and candidatures site, as well as many Mission websites implementing the CandiWeb elections and candidatures website, a cooperative effort of the Secretariat and the diplomatic community coordinated by the Working Group;

4. *Requests* the Secretary-General to extend full cooperation to the Working Group and to give priority to implementing its recommendations and guidance, particularly with regard to the establishment of a Member State web portal to consolidate and simplify the secure access by authorized representatives of Member States to relevant information;

5. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009 on action taken in follow-up to the present resolution, including the findings of the Working Group and an assessment of its work and mandate.

38th plenary meeting
22 July 2008

2008/7
Restructuring of the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Noting* the adoption by the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific at its sixty-fourth session, held in Bangkok from 24 to 30 April 2008, of resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Commission,[12]

"1. *Endorses* Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,[12] as set out in annex I to the present resolution;

"2. *Also endorses* the annexes to resolution 64/1, on the conference structure of the Commission, on issues to be addressed by the committees subsidiary to the Commission, and on the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission, as set out in annexes II, III and IV to the present resolution.

[12] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 19* (E/2008/39), chap. IV, sect. A.

"Annex I

"Resolution 64/1 on the restructuring of the conference structure of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

"*The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific*,

"*Recalling* its resolutions 143 (XXX) of 5 April 1974, 210 (XXXVI) of 29 March 1980, 262 (XLIII) of 30 April 1987, 47/3 of 10 April 1991, 48/2 of 23 April 1992, 51/3 of 1 May 1995, 52/1 of 24 April 1996 and 53/1 of 30 April 1997 on the conference structure of the Commission,

"*Recalling also* its resolution 58/1 of 22 May 2002 on restructuring the conference structure of the Commission, and in particular paragraph 7 thereof on the requirement for a review to be conducted at its sixty-third session,

"*Recalling further* its resolution 61/1 of 18 May 2005 on the midterm review concerning the functioning of the conference structure of the Commission,

"*Recalling* its resolution 63/3 of 23 May 2007 on the review of the conference structure of the Commission and, in particular, paragraph 1, in which the Commission decided to defer the review of the conference structure of the Commission, including its thematic and sectoral priorities and subsidiary structure, to its sixty-fourth session,

"*Recalling also* General Assembly resolution 61/266 of 16 May 2007 on multilingualism, in particular paragraphs 4, 7, 9 and 11 thereof, as applicable to the Commission,

"*Noting* the Commission's unique role as the most representative body for the Asian and Pacific region and its comprehensive mandate as the main economic and social development centre of the United Nations system for the Asian and Pacific region,

"*Noting also* the importance of further cooperation between the Commission and subregional organizations, and the need to achieve synergies and build effective partnerships,

"*Taking note* of the report on the external evaluation of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific: key findings and proposals for action[13] as well as the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on the inspection of results-based management practices at the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific,[14]

"*Taking note also* of the evaluations and recommendations of members and associate members concerning the outcomes of sessions of the Commission and its subsidiary structures held under the conference structure,

"*Having considered* the report on the implementation of Commission resolutions 58/1, 61/1 and 63/3,[15]

"[13] E/ESCAP/63/19.

"[14] E/ESCAP/64/30.

"[15] E/ESCAP/64/19.

"*Commending* the initiatives of the Executive Secretary in facilitating an effective process of consultation among members and associate members on a comprehensive and thorough review of the conference structure of the Commission,

"*Underlining* the fact that an effective conference structure requires a strengthened evaluation system, added transparency and enhanced communication with the member States,

"1. *Decides* to revise its conference structure, with immediate effect, to conform to the pattern outlined in annex I to the present resolution;

"2. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to take into account the revision of the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission in the future programme of work and strategic framework of the organization;

"3. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary, bearing in mind the goal of maximizing the impact of the United Nations in the field of economic and social development in the Asian and Pacific region, to reorganize the secretariat so as to enhance its capability to service the subsidiary structure of the Commission;

"4. *Further requests* the Executive Secretary to provide members and associate members with a preliminary assessment of the organizational and staffing implications of the revision of the intergovernmental structure subsidiary to the Commission within the next six months;

"5. *Commends* the secretariat on the implementation of the resolutions and rules establishing language arrangements for the official and working languages of the Commission and urges the Executive Secretary to continue efforts to monitor closely the strict implementation, as applicable to the Commission, of General Assembly resolution 61/266;

"6. *Requests* the Executive Secretary to undertake systematic monitoring and evaluation of the conference structure and its link to the programme priorities of the Commission;

"7. *Also requests* the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its sixty-seventh session on the implementation of the present resolution, focusing in particular on whether the conference structure has served the purpose of improving efficiency and attracting higher and wider representation from members and associate members, which would serve as the basis for a midterm review of the functioning of the conference structure to be conducted during the sixty-seventh session;

"8. *Decides* to conduct, at its sixty-ninth session, a review of its conference structure, including its subsidiary structure, taking into account the outcome of the midterm review referred to in paragraph 7 above, and requests the Executive Secretary to submit to the Commission at its sixty-ninth session a report analysing the functioning of the conference structure in order to facilitate the review.

"Annex II
"Conference structure of the Commission

"I. The Commission

"1. The Commission shall meet annually, with each session comprising a senior officials segment followed by a ministerial segment, for up to a maximum of seven working days to discuss and decide on important issues pertaining to inclusive and sustainable economic and social development in the region, decide on the recommendations of its subsidiary bodies and of the Executive Secretary, review and endorse the proposed strategic framework and programme of work, and take any other decisions required, in conformity with its terms of reference.

"2. The sessions of the Special Body on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and the Special Body on Pacific Island Developing Countries shall be held for a maximum of one day each in alternate years, during the senior officials segment and shall have a status commensurate with the Committees of the Whole.

"3. The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission Informal Working Group on Draft Resolutions convened prior to the Commission shall be reconstituted as the Working Group on Draft Resolutions during the senior officials segment and shall have a status commensurate with the Committees of the Whole.

"4. The number of simultaneous meetings of the Committees of the Whole, including their commensurate bodies, held during the senior officials segment of the annual session of the Commission, shall not exceed three.

"5. Without prejudice to rule 31 of the rules of procedure of the Commission, members of the Commission intending to submit draft resolutions to the Commission are strongly encouraged to submit them to the Executive Secretary at least one month prior to the commencement of the session of the Commission in order to allow sufficient time for review by members and associate members of the Commission.

"II. Subsidiary structure

"6. The subsidiary structure of the Commission shall consist of the following eight committees:

"(a) Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development;

"(b) Committee on Trade and Investment;

"(c) Committee on Transport;

"(d) Committee on Environment and Development;

"(e) Committee on Information and Communications Technology;

"(f) Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction;

"(g) Committee on Social Development;

"(h) Committee on Statistics.

"7. The eight committees shall meet biennially, with four committees meeting each year, for a maximum duration of five days for each session.

"8. Within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall:

"(a) Review and analyse regional trends;

"(b) Identify priorities and emerging issues and consult on regional approaches, taking into consideration subregional aspects;

"(c) Promote regional dialogue, including its subregional synergies, and an exchange of experiences on policies and programmes;

"(d) Consider common regional positions as inputs to global processes and promote regional follow-up to their outcomes;

"(e) Propose issues for consideration by the Commission as possible resolutions;

"(f) Monitor the implementation of Commission resolutions;

"(g) Promote a collaborative approach to addressing the development challenges of the region, where appropriate, between Governments and civil society, the private sector and United Nations and other international institutions at the regional and subregional levels.

"9. Further, within their respective areas of purview, the committees shall provide the secretariat, including its regional institutions, with guidance in reviewing the proposed strategic framework and programme of work.

"10. The following areas shall be mainstreamed into the work of all committees:

"(a) Implementation of the relevant internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

"(b) Poverty reduction and sustainable development;

"(c) Gender equality;

"(d) Priority needs of least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

"11. The specific issues to be addressed by each of the eight committees in carrying out the above functions are listed in annex II to the present resolution.

"III. Ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings

"12. Subject to the approval of the Commission, ad hoc ministerial conferences and other intergovernmental meetings may be organized on specific and cross-sectoral issues.

"13. No more than six such ministerial conferences or other intergovernmental meetings may be held during a calendar year, and the total number of days shall not exceed twenty.

"14. In those years when a ministerial conference or intergovernmental meeting is held covering issues normally discussed in a committee, the corresponding committee need not be convened.

"IV. Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

"15. The functions of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall be in accordance with the terms of reference contained in annex III to the present resolution. The Advisory Committee shall advise the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for the sessions of the Commission and committees subsidiary to the Commission, bearing in mind the need to ensure a results-oriented and focused agenda that is aligned with the development priorities of member States, in accordance with paragraph 5 of the terms of reference of the Advisory Committee.

"16. The Advisory Committee may, if necessary, establish its own working groups for the consideration of specific issues.

"17. The number of formal meetings of the Advisory Committee shall not exceed twelve per calendar year. Any additional meetings, formal or informal, will require the concurrence of the Advisory Committee and the Executive Secretary, and will not require documentation by the secretariat, unless otherwise requested on an exceptional basis by the Advisory Committee.

"18. Should the need arise to seek the views of United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations on subjects of interest to the Advisory Committee, members of the Advisory Committee can, if consensus has been reached, request the secretariat to invite representatives of particular United Nations entities or other intergovernmental organizations to attend a subsequent session of the Advisory Committee.

"V. Existing regional institutions under the auspices of the Commission

"19. The following institutions under the auspices of the Commission shall continue to function as prescribed in their respective statutes and terms of reference:

"(a) Asian and Pacific Centre for Transfer of Technology;

"(b) Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Secondary Crops Development in Asia and the Pacific;

"(c) Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific;

"(d) United Nations Asian and Pacific Centre for Agricultural Engineering and Machinery;

"(e) Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development.

"VI. General provisions

"A. Rules of procedure

"20. Unless otherwise specified by the Commission, the rules of procedure of the Commission, including those pertaining to the decision-making process, shall apply, mutatis mutandis, to the committees.

"B. Informal session

"21. An informal session among the heads of delegations during the ministerial segment of each Commission session may be organized but shall not be institutionalized. The agenda for the informal session shall be decided by consensus and the annotated agenda shall reach members at least thirty days before the opening of the session to ensure the efficiency and effectiveness of the session. Simultaneous interpretation shall be provided.

"Annex III
"Issues to be addressed by the committees subsidiary to the Commission

"1. Committee on Macroeconomic Policy, Poverty Reduction and Inclusive Development:

- "• Experiences and practices in formulating and implementing macroeconomic policies to reduce poverty and achieve sustainable and inclusive development
- "• Regional economic development policies and options, including in the area of financing for development
- "• Strategies for achieving the Millennium Development Goals, with a special focus on poverty reduction
- "• Pro-poor economic growth for increasing the income and employment of the poor
- "• Progress towards graduation of the least developed countries through the mobilization of regional efforts to address poverty reduction and other identified concerns of countries with special needs[16]
- "• Policy options and programmes for reducing rural poverty, including those with a gender dimension, through the sustainable development of secondary crops

"2. Committee on Trade and Investment:

- "• Regional cooperative mechanisms and agreements in trade, investment and finance, including the Asia-Pacific Trade Agreement
- "• Policy options on trade and investment, enterprise development and finance
- "• Policy options and strategies for sustainable economic growth and rural poverty reduction through agro-technology transfer and agro-based enterprise development
- "• Technology transfer to address regional development challenges

"3. Committee on Transport:

- "• Transport policy options and programmes, including those targeting the Millennium Development Goals

"[16] The report of this Committee would be submitted to the Special Bodies on Least Developed and Landlocked Developing Countries and on Pacific Island Developing Countries.

"• The Asian Highway, Trans-Asian Railway and other initiatives promoted by the Commission for planning international intermodal transport linkages

"• Measures to improve road safety and the efficiency of transport operations and logistics

"• Support for the accession and implementation of international transport agreements

"4. Committee on Environment and Development:

"• Integration of environmental sustainability in development policy

"• Policies and strategies for the use of sustainable planning and the use of water resources

"• Regional cooperation for enhanced energy security and the sustainable use of energy resources

"5. Committee on Information and Communications Technology:

"• Integration of information and communications technology-related issues in development policies, plans and programmes

"• Transfer and application of information and communications technology at the regional and subregional levels

"• Development of human and institutional capacity in the use of information and communications technology

"• Information and communications technology applications for disaster risk reduction

"6. Committee on Disaster Risk Reduction:

"• Policy options and strategies on multi-hazard disaster risk reduction and mitigation

"• Regional cooperation mechanisms for disaster risk management, including space and other technical support systems

"• Multi-hazard assessment, preparedness, early warning and response to disaster risks

"7. Committee on Social Development:

"• Implementation of internationally agreed commitments, including those agreed at the United Nations on social development, population, ageing, disability, youth and disadvantaged groups, gender equality and health

"• Policy options, strategies and good practices in social policy and protection

"• Social policies and financing aimed at building inclusive societies

"8. Committee on Statistics:

"• Tracking key socio-economic and environmental trends in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific region, especially progress towards the Millennium Development Goals

"• Identifying data requirements for economic, social and environmental analysis in accordance with internationally agreed standards and good practices

"• Capacity-building for national statistical offices in the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific region to produce, disseminate and analyse data in accordance with internationally agreed standards and good practices

"Annex IV
"Terms of reference of the Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission

"The Advisory Committee of Permanent Representatives and Other Representatives Designated by Members of the Commission shall have the following functions:

"(a) Maintain close cooperation and consultation between the members and the secretariat of the Commission;

"(b) Advise and assist the Executive Secretary in drawing up proposals for the strategic framework and programme of work, consistent with the guidance provided by the Commission;

"(c) Receive on a regular basis information on the administrative and financial functioning of the Commission, and assist and advise the Executive Secretary in monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the programme of work of the Commission;

"(d) Review the draft calendar of meetings prior to its submission to the Commission at its annual session;

"(e) Advise the Executive Secretary on the provisional agenda for sessions of the Commission and committees subsidiary to the Commission, bearing in mind the need to ensure a results-oriented and focused agenda that is aligned with the development priorities of member States, as well as chapter II of its rules of procedure;

"(f) Advise the Executive Secretary on the identification of emerging economic and social issues and other relevant issues for incorporation into the provisional agendas of the Commission sessions;

"(g) Assist the secretariat in the formulation of the annotated provisional agenda for each session of the Commission before it is finalized;

"(h) Carry out any other tasks to be entrusted to it by the Commission."

38th plenary meeting
22 July 2008

2008/8
Admission of the Sudan as a member of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

The Economic and Social Council,

Taking into consideration paragraph 2 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1818 (LV) of 9 August 1973 concerning the terms of reference of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, which provided that members of the Commission[17] should consist of the States Members of the United Nations situated in Western Asia that called on the services of the then United Nations Economic and Social Office in Beirut, and that future applications for membership by Member States should be decided on by the Council upon the recommendation of the Commission,

Recalling that the terms of reference and rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia do not cover the geographical location of countries that may become members thereof nor proscribe a member of one regional commission from being at the same time a member of another regional commission,

Recalling also that most of the other regional commissions have as members countries that are not located in the region that they serve,

1. *Welcomes with satisfaction* the request by the Government of the Sudan that it be admitted to membership in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia;

2. *Approves* the admission of the Sudan as a member of the Commission.

38th plenary meeting
22 July 2008

2008/9
Venue of the thirty-third session of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind paragraph 15 of the terms of reference of the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and rules 1 and 2 of the rules of procedure of the Commission,

Considering the invitation of the Government of Brazil to host the thirty-third session of the Commission,

1. *Expresses its gratitude* to the Government of Brazil for its generous invitation;

2. *Notes* the acceptance by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of this invitation with pleasure;

---

[17] The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia comprises the following thirteen members: Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

3. *Endorses* the decision of the Commission to hold its thirty-third session in Brazil in 2010.

38th plenary meeting
22 July 2008

2008/10
Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2004/52 of 23 July 2004, 2005/46 of 27 July 2005, 2006/10 of 26 July 2006 and 2007/13 of 25 July 2007 and its decision 2004/332 of 11 November 2004,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti[18] and the recommendations contained therein;

2. *Also takes note* of the political and economic evolution of the situation and welcomes the support provided by the international community to this process;

3. *Notes* the progress made by the Government of Haiti in terms of gender equality, and also notes the importance of gender equality as a necessary dimension of any strategy for development;

4. *Commends* the finalization of the growth and poverty reduction strategy paper by the Haitian authorities, and looks forward to continued support from donors, the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions in connection with the implementation of this strategy;

5. *Expresses concern* over the especially adverse effects of the global food crisis on Haiti and encourages the international community to continue providing support for the short- and long-term needs for recovery of Haiti and, in this regard, welcomes the holding of meetings on this issue, such as the High-level Meeting on Food Security in Haiti, held in Rome on 2 June 2008, and the Conference on Food Sovereignty and Rural Development in Haiti, held in Madrid on 15 July 2008;[19]

6. *Recognizes* the need for effective coordination between the Government of Haiti and donors, as well as a standing mechanism for consultation with the main non-governmental organizations active in Haiti;

7. *Decides* to extend the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti until the substantive session of the Economic and Social Council in July 2009, with the purpose of following closely and providing advice on Haiti's long-term development strategy to promote socio-economic recovery and stability, with particular attention to the need to ensure coherence and sustainability in international support for Haiti, based on the long-term national development priorities and building upon the Interim Cooperation Framework and the growth and poverty reduction strategy paper, and stressing the need to avoid overlap and duplication with respect to existing mechanisms;

---

[18] E/2008/90.

[19] As agreed upon at the Fifth European Union-Latin America and Caribbean Summit held in Lima on 16 and 17 May 2008.

8. *Expresses its satisfaction* to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti and requests him to continue to support the Group's activities adequately from within existing resources;

9. *Requests* the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti, in accomplishing its mandate, to continue to cooperate with the Secretary-General and his Special Representative in Haiti, the head of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti, the United Nations Development Group, relevant United Nations funds and programmes and the specialized agencies, the Bretton Woods institutions, regional organizations and institutions including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, the Organization of American States, the Caribbean Community and the Inter-American Development Bank, and other major stakeholders;

10. *Also requests* the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Haiti to submit a report on its work, with recommendations, as appropriate, to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009.

40th plenary meeting
23 July 2008

2008/11
Situation of and assistance to Palestinian women

The Economic and Social Council,

Having considered with appreciation the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[20]

Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[21] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women,[22] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century",[23]

Recalling also its resolution 2007/7 of 24 July 2007 and other relevant United Nations resolutions,

Recalling further the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women[24] as it concerns the protection of civilian populations,

Recalling the importance of the implementation of General Assembly resolution 57/337 of 3 July 2003, on the prevention of armed conflict, and Security

[20] E/CN.6/2008/6.

[21] *Report of the World Conference to Review and Appraise the Achievements of the United Nations Decade for Women: Equality, Development and Peace, Nairobi, 15-26 July 1985* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.85.IV.10), chap. I, sect. A.

[22] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[23] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[24] See General Assembly resolution 48/104.

Council resolution 1325 (2000) of 31 October 2000, on women and peace and security,

Noting the resumption of bilateral negotiations within the Middle East peace process on its agreed basis, and expressing the need for the speedy achievement of a final and comprehensive peace settlement between the Palestinian and Israeli sides,

Reaffirming the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peacebuilding, and stressing the importance of their equal participation and involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security and the need to increase their role in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and resolution,

Concerned about the grave situation of Palestinian women resulting from the severe impact of ongoing illegal Israeli practices, including settlement activities and the unlawful construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, the continued imposition of closures and restrictions on the movement of persons and goods and the many severe consequences arising from Israeli military operations in and sieges of civilian areas, in particular in the Gaza Strip, which have impacted detrimentally their social and economic conditions and deepened the humanitarian crisis faced by them and their families,

Stressing the importance of providing assistance, especially emergency assistance, to alleviate the dire socio-economic and humanitarian situation being faced by Palestinian women and their families,

Taking note of the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights of 31 August 2005[25] regarding Palestinian women giving birth at checkpoints, and expressing grave concern at the increasing difficulties faced by pregnant Palestinian women owing to a lack of appropriate and timely antenatal, delivery and post-natal care due to the obstruction of access to proper medical care,

Recalling the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,[26] and recalling also General Assembly resolution ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004,

Recalling also the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[27] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[27] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[28] and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing its condemnation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, especially the excessive use of force against Palestinian civilians, many of them women and children, resulting in injury and loss of human life,

---

[25] A/60/324.

[26] See A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

[27] General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[28] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

Expressing grave concern over the increased difficulties faced by Palestinian women, including the sharp increase in poverty, soaring unemployment, incidents of domestic violence, and declining health and education standards as a result of the deterioration in the economic and social conditions on the ground in the Occupied Palestinian Territory,

Emphasizing the importance of increasing the role of women in decision-making with regard to conflict prevention and the peaceful resolution of conflicts as part of efforts to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in the region,

1. *Calls upon* the concerned parties, as well as the international community, to exert all the necessary efforts to support the resumption of the peace process on its agreed basis, taking into account the common ground already gained, and calls for intensified measures to be taken for the tangible improvement of the difficult situation on the ground and the living conditions faced by Palestinian women and their families;

2. *Reaffirms* that the Israeli occupation remains a major obstacle for Palestinian women with regard to their advancement, self-reliance and integration in the development of their society, and encourages all women in the region to take an active role in supporting the peace process;

3. *Demands* that Israel, the occupying Power, comply fully with the provisions and principles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,[29] the Regulations annexed to The Hague Convention IV of 18 October 1907[30] and the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949,[31] in order to protect the rights of Palestinian women and their families;

4. *Calls upon* Israel to facilitate the return of all refugees and displaced Palestinian women and children to their homes and properties, in compliance with the relevant United Nations resolutions;

5. *Calls upon* the international community to continue to provide urgently needed assistance and services in an effort to alleviate the dire humanitarian crisis being faced by Palestinian women and their families, to promote their development in various fields and to help in the reconstruction of relevant Palestinian institutions;

6. *Requests* the Commission on the Status of Women to continue to monitor and take action with regard to the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women,[21] in particular paragraph 260 concerning Palestinian women and children, the Beijing Platform for Action[22] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century";[23]

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to review the situation, to assist Palestinian women by all available means, including those laid out in the report of the Secretary-General on the situation of and assistance to Palestinian women,[20] and to submit to the Commission on the Status of Women, at its fifty-third

---

[29] General Assembly resolution 217 A (III).

[30] See Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, *The Hague Conventions and Declarations of 1899 and 1907* (New York, Oxford University Press, 1915).

[31] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

session, a report, including information provided by the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, on the progress made in the implementation of the present resolution.

40th plenary meeting
23 July 2008

2008/12
Report of the Committee for Development Policy on its tenth session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 59/209 of 20 December 2004 on a smooth transition strategy for countries graduating from the list of least developed countries,

Recalling also its resolutions 2007/34 and 2007/35 of 27 July 2007,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee for Development Policy on its tenth session;[32]

2. *Requests* the Committee, at its eleventh session, to examine and make recommendations on the themes chosen by the Economic and Social Council for the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2009;

3. *Takes note* of the proposals made by the Committee regarding its future work programme, in particular regarding the monitoring of the development progress of Cape Verde;[33]

4. *Requests* the Committee to monitor the development progress of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries and to include its findings in its annual report to the Economic and Social Council;

5. *Invites* the Chairperson and, as necessary, other members of the Committee to continue the practice of reporting orally on the work of the Committee.

41st plenary meeting
23 July 2008

[32] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 13* (E/2008/33).
[33] Ibid., chap. I, para. 9.

2008/13
Protection against products harmful to health and the environment

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its decision 2007/264 of 27 July 2007, in which the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General, in consultation with Member States and relevant intergovernmental entities, to evaluate the continued usefulness for the Member States of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments and to report to the Council at its substantive session of 2008, and taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on products harmful to health and the environment,[34]

1. *Invites* the United Nations Environment Programme to continue updating the chemicals volume of the Consolidated List of Products Whose Consumption and/or Sale have been Banned, Withdrawn, Severely Restricted or Not Approved by Governments and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2010;

2. *Invites* the World Health Organization to continue updating the pharmaceuticals volume of the Consolidated List and to report to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session in 2010.

41st plenary meeting
23 July 2008

2008/14
Follow-up to the International Conference on Financing for Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002, and General Assembly resolutions 56/210 B of 9 July 2002, 57/250, 57/272 and 57/273 of 20 December 2002, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 58/230 of 23 December 2003, 59/225 of 22 December 2004, 60/188 of 22 December 2005, 61/191 of 20 December 2006 and 62/187 of 19 December 2007,

Recalling also its resolutions 2002/34 of 26 July 2002, 2003/47 of 24 July 2003, 2004/64 of 16 September 2004, 2006/45 of 28 July 2006 and 2007/30 of 27 July 2007,

Recalling further the 2005 World Summit Outcome[35] and General Assembly resolution 60/265 of 30 June 2006 on the follow-up to the development outcome of the 2005 World Summit, including the Millennium Development Goals and the other internationally agreed development goals,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 61/16 of 20 November 2006,

[34] A/63/76-E/2008/54.
[35] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

Welcoming the decision by the General Assembly, contained in its resolution 62/187, that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus will be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008,

Welcoming also the ongoing preparatory process for the Review Conference, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/187,

Taking note of the High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, held in New York from 23 to 25 October 2007,

Welcoming the first session of the Development Cooperation Forum, held in New York on 30 June and 1 July 2008,

1. *Takes note* of the summary by the President of the Economic and Social Council of the special high-level meeting of the Council with the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, held in New York on 14 April 2008,[36] and of the note by the Secretary-General[37] on coherence, coordination and cooperation in the context of the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus,[38] including new challenges and emerging issues, prepared in collaboration with the major institutional stakeholders and other relevant organizations of the United Nations system;

2. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council, with the support of the Financing for Development Office of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, to undertake consultations, including with all major institutional stakeholders, on the role of the Council in the implementation of the Monterrey Consensus following the outcome of the Doha Review Conference, and to report thereon to the Council at its organizational session for 2009.

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/15
Support to Non-Self-Governing Territories by the specialized agencies and international institutions associated with the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Having examined the report of the Secretary-General[39] and the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council containing the information submitted by the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system on

[36] A/63/80-E/2008/67.

[37] E/2008/7.

[38] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[39] A/63/61.

their activities with regard to the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[40]

Having heard the statement by the representative of the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[41]

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 1514 (XV) of 14 December 1960 and 1541 (XV) of 15 December 1960, the resolutions of the Special Committee and other relevant resolutions and decisions, including, in particular, Economic and Social Council resolution 2007/25 of 26 July 2007,

Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the final documents of the successive Conferences of Heads of State or Government of Non-Aligned Countries and of the resolutions adopted by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum and the Caribbean Community,

Conscious of the need to facilitate the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples,[42]

Welcoming the current participation, in their capacity as observers, of those Non-Self-Governing Territories that are associate members of the regional commissions in the world conferences in the economic and social sphere, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly and in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including resolutions and decisions of the Assembly and the Special Committee on specific Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Noting that only some specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system have been involved in providing assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories,

Welcoming the assistance extended to Non-Self-Governing Territories by certain specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in particular the United Nations Development Programme,

Stressing that, because the development options of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories are limited, they face special challenges in planning for and implementing sustainable development, and that they will be constrained in meeting those challenges without the continuing cooperation and assistance of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system,

Stressing also the importance of securing the necessary resources for funding expanded programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned and the need to enlist the support of all the major funding institutions within the United Nations system in that regard,

Reaffirming the mandates of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system to take all appropriate measures, within their respective spheres of competence, to ensure the full implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions,

---

[40] E/2008/47.

[41] See E/2008/SR.38.

[42] General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV).

Expressing its appreciation to the African Union, the Pacific Islands Forum, the Caribbean Community and other regional organizations for the continued cooperation and assistance they have extended to the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in that regard,

Expressing its conviction that closer contacts and consultations between and among the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and regional organizations help to facilitate the effective formulation of programmes of assistance for the peoples concerned,

Mindful of the imperative need to keep under continuous review the activities of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system in the implementation of the various United Nations decisions relating to decolonization,

Bearing in mind the extremely fragile economies of the small island Non-Self-Governing Territories and their vulnerability to natural disasters, such as hurricanes, cyclones and sea-level rise, and recalling the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/114 of 17 December 2007, entitled "Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations",

1. *Takes note* of the report of the President of the Economic and Social Council,[40] and endorses the observations and suggestions arising therefrom;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[39]

3. *Recommends* that all States intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV), and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

4. *Reaffirms* that the specialized agencies and other organizations and institutions of the United Nations system should continue to be guided by the relevant resolutions of the United Nations in their efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Declaration and all other relevant General Assembly resolutions;

5. *Also reaffirms* that the recognition by the General Assembly, the Security Council and other United Nations organs of the legitimacy of the aspirations of the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories to exercise their right to self-determination entails, as a corollary, the extension of all appropriate assistance to those peoples;

6. *Expresses its appreciation* to those specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system that have continued to cooperate with the United Nations and the regional and subregional organizations in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations, and requests all of the specialized agencies and

other organizations of the United Nations system to implement the relevant provisions of those resolutions;

7. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system and international and regional organizations to examine and review conditions in each Non-Self-Governing Territory so that they may take appropriate measures to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

8. *Urges* those specialized agencies and organizations of the United Nations system that have not yet provided assistance to Non-Self-Governing Territories to do so as soon as possible;

9. *Requests* the specialized agencies and other organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and regional organizations to strengthen existing measures of support and to formulate appropriate programmes of assistance to the remaining Non-Self-Governing Territories, within the framework of their respective mandates, in order to accelerate progress in the economic and social sectors of those Territories;

10. *Recommends* that the executive heads of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system formulate, with the active cooperation of the regional organizations concerned, concrete proposals for the full implementation of the relevant resolutions of the United Nations and submit those proposals to their governing and legislative organs;

11. *Also recommends* that the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system continue to review, at the regular meetings of their governing bodies, the implementation of General Assembly resolution 1514 (XV) and other relevant resolutions of the United Nations;

12. *Welcomes* the preparation by the Department of Public Information of the United Nations Secretariat and the Department of Political Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat, in consultation with the United Nations Development Programme, the specialized agencies and the Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, of an informational leaflet on assistance programmes available to the Non-Self-Governing Territories, and requests that it be disseminated as widely as possible;

13. *Also welcomes* the continuing efforts made by the United Nations Development Programme in maintaining a close liaison between the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean and the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, and in providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

14. *Encourages* the Non-Self-Governing Territories to take steps to establish and/or strengthen disaster preparedness and management institutions and policies;

15. *Requests* the administering Powers concerned to facilitate, when appropriate, the participation of appointed and elected representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the relevant meetings and conferences of the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system, in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions and decisions, including the

resolutions and decisions of the General Assembly and the Special Committee, on specific Territories, so that they may benefit from the related activities of those agencies and organizations;

16. *Recommends* that all Governments intensify their efforts within the specialized agencies and other organizations of the United Nations system of which they are members to accord priority to the question of providing assistance to the peoples of the Non-Self-Governing Territories;

17. *Draws the attention* of the Special Committee to the present resolution and to the discussion held on the subject at the substantive session of 2008 of the Economic and Social Council;

18. *Recalls* the adoption by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean of its resolution 574 (XXVII) of 16 May 1998,[43] in which the Commission called for the necessary mechanisms for its associate members, including the Non-Self-Governing Territories, to participate, subject to the rules of procedure of the General Assembly, in the special sessions of the Assembly convened to review and assess the implementation of the plans of action of those United Nations world conferences in which the Territories had originally participated in their capacity as observers, and in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies;

19. *Requests* the President of the Economic and Social Council to continue to maintain close contact on these matters with the Chairman of the Special Committee and to report thereon to the Council;

20. *Requests* the Secretary-General to follow up on the implementation of the present resolution, paying particular attention to cooperation and integration arrangements for maximizing the efficiency of the assistance activities undertaken by various organizations of the United Nations system, and to report thereon to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009;

21. *Decides* to keep the above questions under continuous review.

42nd plenary Meeting
24 July 2008

2008/16
Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2004/69 of 11 November 2004, in which the Council decided that the Ad Hoc Group of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters would be renamed the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters,

Recognizing the call made in the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development for the strengthening of international tax

[43] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1998, Supplement No. 21* (E/1998/41), chap. III, sect. G.

cooperation through enhanced dialogue among national tax authorities and greater coordination of the work of the concerned multilateral bodies and relevant regional organizations, giving special attention to the needs of developing countries and countries with economies in transition,[44]

Recalling the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of and follow-up to commitments and agreements made at the International Conference on Financing for Development[45] and the recommendations contained therein,

Recognizing the need for an inclusive, participatory and broad-based dialogue on international cooperation in tax matters,

Noting the activities developing within the concerned multilateral bodies and relevant subregional and regional organizations,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters on its third session[46] and the significant progress of the Committee's work;

2. *Also takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the financing of the Committee of Experts on International Cooperation in Tax Matters,[47] taking into account the issues raised by the Committee at its second and third sessions;

3. *Recognizes* that the Committee agreed to create, as necessary, ad hoc subcommittees composed of experts and observers who would work according to the Committee's rules of procedure to prepare and determine the supporting documentation for the agenda items, including requests for papers by independent experts, for consideration at its regular session;

4. *Notes* that five subcommittees on substantive matters, namely, the improper use of treaties, the definition of permanent establishment, the exchange of information, including a possible code of conduct on cooperation in combating international tax evasion, dispute resolution and the treatment of Islamic financial instruments, and two working groups, on the revision of the Manual for the Negotiation of Bilateral Tax Treaties between Developed and Developing Countries[48] and on general issues in the revision of the commentaries on the articles of the United Nations Model Double Taxation Convention between Developed and Developing Countries,[49] have been created and are currently working intersessionally;

5. *Also notes* the importance of adequate representation from developing countries in the meetings of the subcommittees and working groups, and in this regard invites the Secretary-General to intensify efforts to seek appropriate resources;

---

[44] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex, para. 64.

[45] A/58/216.

[46] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 25* (E/2007/45).

[47] E/2008/4.

[48] ST/ESA/PAD/SER.E/37.

[49] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.01.XVI.2.

6. *Further notes* the establishment of the trust fund by the Secretary-General to supplement regular budget resources, and urges all Member States and relevant organizations to contribute generously to the fund;

7. *Invites* the Committee to work with the Secretariat on organizing training workshops, in collaboration with concerned multilateral bodies, and regional, subregional and relevant international organizations, for developing countries and countries with economies in transition as part of the work required to carry out its mandate, which includes making recommendations on capacity-building and providing technical assistance, provided that funding is available from the trust fund;

8. *Decides* that the fourth session of the Committee shall be convened in Geneva from 20 to 24 October 2008;

9. *Approves* the provisional agenda for the fourth session of the Committee as contained in its report on its third session.[50]

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/17
Social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development, held in Copenhagen from 6 to 12 March 1995,[51] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly, entitled "World Summit for Social Development and beyond: achieving social development for all in a globalizing world", held in Geneva from 26 June to 1 July 2000,[52]

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration of 8 September 2000,[53] the United Nations Declaration on the New Partnership for Africa's Development of 16 September 2002,[54] General Assembly resolution 57/7 of 4 November 2002 on the final review and appraisal of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and support for the New Partnership for Africa's Development,[55]

Noting the conclusions of the African Union Extraordinary Summit on Employment and Poverty Alleviation in Africa, held in Ouagadougou on 8 and 9 September 2004,

---

[50] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 25* (E/2007/45), chap. IV, para. 78.

[51] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8).

[52] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[53] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[54] See General Assembly resolution 57/2.

[55] A/57/304, annex.

Recognizing the commitments made in meeting the special needs of Africa at the 2005 World Summit,[56]

Remaining concerned that Africa is the only continent currently not on track to achieve any of the goals set out in the Millennium Declaration by 2015, and in this regard emphasizing that concerted efforts and continued support are required to fulfil the commitments to address the special needs of Africa,

Recognizing that capacity-building is essential for the successful implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, and recognizing also the need for continued support from the international community,

Bearing in mind that African countries have primary responsibility for their own economic and social development, that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized and that their development efforts need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, and in this regard recalling the support given by the International Conference on Financing for Development[57] to the New Partnership,

1. *Welcomes* the progress made by the African countries in fulfilling their commitments in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development[55] to deepen democracy, human rights, good governance and sound economic management, and encourages African countries, with the participation of stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, to intensify their efforts in this regard by developing and strengthening institutions for governance and creating an environment conducive to attracting foreign direct investment for the development of the region;

2. *Also welcomes* the good progress that has been achieved in implementing the African Peer Review Mechanism, in particular the completion of the peer review process in some countries, the progress in implementing the recommendations of those reviews in some countries and the completion of the self-assessment process, the hosting of country support missions and the launching of the national preparatory process for the peer review in others, and urges African States that have not yet done so, to join the peer review, as a matter of priority, and to strengthen the peer review process so as to ensure its efficient performance;

3. *Further welcomes* the efforts made by African countries and regional and subregional organizations, including the African Union, to mainstream a gender perspective and the empowerment of women in the implementation of the New Partnership;

4. *Emphasizes* that the African Union and the regional economic communities have a critical role to play in the implementation of the New Partnership, and in this regard encourages African countries, with the assistance of their development partners, to increase and coordinate effectively their support for enhancing the capacities of these institutions;

5. *Also emphasizes* that progress in the implementation of the New Partnership for Africa's Development depends also on a favourable national and

---

[56] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[57] See *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

international environment for Africa's growth and development, including measures to promote a policy environment conducive to private sector development and entrepreneurship;

6. *Further emphasizes* that democracy, respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the right to development, transparent and accountable governance and administration in all sectors of society and effective participation by civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector are among the indispensable foundations for the realization of social and people-centred sustainable development;

7. *Emphasizes* that the rising poverty levels and social exclusion faced by most African countries require a comprehensive approach to the development and implementation of social and economic policies, inter alia, to reduce poverty, to promote economic activity, growth and sustainable development, to ensure employment creation and decent work for all, and to enhance social inclusion, political stability, democracy and good governance and the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, so as to ensure the achievement of Africa's social and economic objectives;

8. *Recognizes* that while social development is primarily the responsibility of Governments, international cooperation and assistance are essential for the full achievement of that goal;

9. *Also recognizes* the contribution made by Member States to the implementation of the New Partnership in the context of South-South cooperation, welcomes, in that regard, the convening of the Beijing Summit of the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation on 4 and 5 November 2006 and the Africa-South America Summit, held in Abuja on 30 November and 1 December 2006, and encourages the international community, including the international financial institutions, to support the efforts of African countries, including through triangular cooperation;

10. *Welcomes* the various important initiatives of Africa's development partners in recent years, including those of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, the Africa Action Plan of the Group of Eight, the 2007 European Union-Africa Summit, the Africa-Asia Business Forum, the report of the Commission for Africa entitled "Our common interest" and the Africa Partnership Forum, as well as the Fourth Tokyo International Conference on African Development, held in Yokohama, Japan, from 28 to 30 May 2008, on the theme "Towards a vibrant Africa: continent of hope and opportunity",[58] and in this regard emphasizes the importance of coordination in such initiatives on Africa;

11. *Urges* continuous support of measures to address the challenges of poverty eradication and sustainable development in Africa, including, as appropriate, debt relief, improved market access, support for the private sector and entrepreneurship, enhanced official development assistance, increased foreign direct investment and the transfer of technology;

12. *Welcomes* the recent increase in official development assistance pledged by many of the development partners, including the commitments of the Group of Eight and the European Union, which will lead to an increase in official development assistance to Africa of 25 billion dollars per year by 2010, and

[58] See A/62/859.

encourages all development partners to ensure aid effectiveness through the implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness: Ownership, Harmonization, Alignment, Results and Mutual Accountability of 2005;[59]

13. *Recognizes* the need for national Governments and the international community to make continued efforts to increase the flow of new and additional resources for financing for development from all sources, public and private, domestic and foreign, to support the development of African countries;

14. *Welcomes* the efforts by development partners to align their financial and technical support to Africa more closely with the priorities of the New Partnership, as reflected in national poverty reduction strategies or in similar strategies, and encourages development partners to increase their efforts in this regard;

15. *Acknowledges* the activities of the Bretton Woods institutions and the African Development Bank in African countries, and invites those institutions to continue their support for the implementation of the priorities and objectives of the New Partnership;

16. *Notes* the growing collaboration among the entities of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, and requests the Secretary-General to promote greater coherence in the work of the United Nations system in support of the New Partnership, on the basis of the agreed clusters;

17. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to provide assistance to the African Union and the secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development and to African countries in developing projects and programmes within the scope of the priorities of the New Partnership;

18. *Invites* the Secretary-General, as a follow-up to the 2005 World Summit, to urge the organizations and bodies of the United Nations system to assist African countries in implementing quick-impact initiatives, based on their national development priorities and strategies, to enable them to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, and in this respect, acknowledges recent commitments by some donor countries;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to take measures to strengthen the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, and requests the Office to collaborate with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and to include the social dimensions of the New Partnership in its comprehensive reports to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session;

20. *Requests* the Commission for Social Development to discuss in its annual programme of work, regional programmes to promote social development so as to enable all regions of the United Nations system to share experiences and best practices, with the concurrence of concerned countries;

21. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should continue to give prominence to and raise awareness of the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development during its forty-seventh session;

22. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development, to be tabled during

---

[59] Available at http://www1.worldbank.org/harmonization/PARIS/FINALPARISDECLARATION.pdf.

the forty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development, in collaboration with the Office of the Special Adviser on Africa, while also taking into consideration General Assembly resolution 62/179 of 19 December 2007, entitled "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support".

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/18
Promoting full employment and decent work for all

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[60] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[61] and a continued global dialogue on social issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recognizing that a people-centred approach must be at the centre of economic and social development,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[62] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[63]

Recalling also the ministerial declaration adopted by the Economic and Social Council at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2006,[64]

Recalling further its resolution 2007/2 of 17 July 2007 and the theme of the coordination segment of its 2007 substantive session, "The role of the United Nations system in promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all",

Recognizing that approximately 1.5 billion people, or one third of the working-age population worldwide, were either unemployed or underemployed in 2006,[65] that of this number about 200 million were unemployed, and that the remaining 1.3 billion constituted the working poor who are unable to earn enough to lift themselves and their family members out of poverty, and hence emphasizing the

---

[60] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[61] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[62] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[63] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[64] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-first Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/61/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 50.

[65] See International Labour Organization, *Key Indicators of the Labour Market*, 5th ed. (Geneva, International Labour Office, 2007).

dual challenge of creating new productive jobs and improving the quality of existing ones,

Recognizing also that the decent-work agenda of the International Labour Organization is an important instrument for achieving the objective of full and productive employment and decent work for all through the promotion and realization of the fundamental principles and rights at work, creation of greater and equal opportunities for women and men to secure decent employment and income, and enhancement of the coverage and effectiveness of social protection for all and the strengthening of social dialogue,

1. *Reaffirms* the central importance of full and productive employment and decent work to poverty eradication and social integration;

2. *Also reaffirms* that the goals of full and productive employment and decent work are crucial to poverty eradication and should be made a central objective of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, as part of the efforts to achieve the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Calls upon* Governments as a matter of priority to continue efforts towards ratifying, where Member States have not done so, and fully implementing the International Labour Organization conventions concerning respect for fundamental principles and rights at work, namely, freedom of association and the effective recognition of the right to organize and bargain collectively, and the elimination of all forms of forced or compulsory labour, as well as the effective elimination of child labour and discrimination in respect of employment and occupation, and to consider also the ratification and full implementation of other International Labour Organization conventions concerning the employment rights of women, youth, persons with disabilities, migrants and indigenous peoples;

4. *Affirms* its strong support for fair globalization and the need to translate growth into eradication of poverty and commitment to strategies and policies that aim to promote full, freely chosen and productive employment and decent work for all and that these should constitute a fundamental component of relevant national and international policies as well as national development strategies, including poverty reduction strategies, and reaffirms that employment creation and decent work should be incorporated into macroeconomic policies, taking fully into account the impact and social dimension of globalization, the benefits and costs of which are often unevenly shared and distributed;

5. *Reaffirms* that there is an urgent need to create an environment at the national and international levels that is conducive to the attainment of full and productive employment and decent work for all as a foundation for sustainable development and that an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship is essential to the creation of new job opportunities, and also reaffirms that opportunities for men and women to obtain productive work in conditions of freedom, equity, security and human dignity are essential to ensuring the eradication of hunger and poverty, the improvement of economic and social well-being for all, the achievement of sustained economic growth and sustainable development of all nations and a fully inclusive and equitable globalization;

6. *Stresses* the importance of removing obstacles to the realization of the right of peoples to self-determination, in particular people living under colonial or other forms of alien domination or foreign occupation, which adversely affect their social and economic development, including their exclusion from labour markets;

7. *Reaffirms* that violence, in its many manifestations, including domestic violence, especially against women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities, is a growing threat to the security of individuals, families and communities everywhere; that total social breakdown is an all-too-real contemporary experience; that organized crime, illegal drugs, the illicit arms trade, trafficking in women and children, ethnic and religious conflict, civil war, terrorism, all forms of extremist violence, xenophobia, and politically motivated killing and even genocide present fundamental threats to societies and the global social order; and that they also present compelling and urgent reasons for action by Governments individually and, as appropriate, jointly to foster social cohesion while recognizing, protecting and valuing diversity;

8. *Also reaffirms* that each country has the primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that the role of national policies and development strategies cannot be overemphasized, and underlines the importance of adopting effective measures, including new financial mechanisms, as appropriate, to support the efforts of developing countries to achieve sustained economic growth, sustainable development, poverty eradication and the strengthening of their democratic systems;

9. *Calls upon* the international community to enhance its efforts to create an enabling environment for social development and poverty eradication through increasing market access for developing countries, technology transfer on mutually agreed terms, financial aid and a comprehensive solution to the external debt problem;

10. *Welcomes* the increased resources that are becoming available as a result of the establishment of timetables by many developed countries for achieving the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries, as well as the target of 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national product of developed countries for official development assistance to least developed countries, and urges those developed countries that have not yet done so to make concrete efforts in this regard in accordance with their commitments;

11. *Acknowledges* that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and hunger;

12. *Stresses* that full and productive employment and decent work for all are key elements of sustainable development of all countries, and should therefore be a priority objective of national policies and international cooperation;

13. *Also stresses* that policies should be devised through which to pursue both economic efficiency and equity;

14. *Urges* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, to develop systems of social protection and to extend or broaden, as appropriate, their effectiveness and coverage, including for workers in the informal economy, recognizing the need for social protection systems to provide social security and

support labour-market participation; invites the International Labour Organization to strengthen its social protection strategies, and policies on extending social security coverage; and also urges Governments, while taking account of national circumstances, to focus on the needs of those living in, or vulnerable to, poverty and give particular consideration to universal access to basic social security systems;

15. *Invites* the International Labour Organization to continue to assist States, as appropriate and upon request, in the strengthening of their social protection strategies and policies on extending social security coverage;

16. *Calls upon* the public sector to continue to play its important role in developing an environment that enables the effective generation of full and productive employment and decent work for all, while acknowledging its role as an employer;

17. *Also calls upon* the private sector to continue to exercise its vital role in generating new investments, employment and financing for development and in advancing efforts towards full employment and decent work;

18. *Encourages* Governments to continue to pursue the creation of a conducive environment for enterprise development in both rural and urban areas, including by giving particular attention to policies that promote micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises, cooperatives and other forms of social enterprises and the participation and entrepreneurship of women, including rural women, through, inter alia, improved administrative regimes for the registration of small businesses, access to microcredit, social security systems and information on markets and new technology, as well as improved regulations;

19. *Stresses* that policies and strategies for achieving full employment and decent work for all should include specific measures to promote gender equality and foster social integration of social groups, such as youth, persons with disabilities, and older persons, as well as migrants and indigenous peoples;

20. *Also stresses* that these policies and strategies should promote gender equality, empowerment of women and better possibilities for all to reconcile work and private and family life;

21. *Encourages* Governments, the private sector, non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society to promote and protect the rights of women workers, to take action to remove structural and legal barriers as well as stereotypic attitudes towards gender equality at work, and to initiate positive steps to promote equal pay for equal work or work of equal value;

22. *Reaffirms* that social integration policies should seek to reduce inequalities, promote access to basic social services, education for all and health care, and increase the participation and integration of social groups;

23. *Also reaffirms* the commitment to develop and implement strategies that give persons with disabilities everywhere equal opportunities to secure full access to productive employment and decent work on an equal basis with others and without any kind of discrimination, including by promoting a labour market and a work environment that are open, inclusive and accessible to all and by ensuring just and favourable conditions of work;

24. *Urges* the development and implementation of integrated policies and strategies that promote opportunities for youth, including those living in rural areas, to prepare for, access and retain full and productive employment and decent work, and for mainstreaming youth employment into national development strategies, as well as encourage young people's entrepreneurship, inter alia, through entrepreneurship education; at the same time, also urges that Governments should promote access to work through integrated policies that enable the creation of new and quality jobs for young people and facilitate access to those jobs; and stresses the importance of the Youth Employment Network as a peer exchange mechanism at the national, regional and international levels;

25. *Stresses* the importance of creating an enabling environment for social dialogue by ensuring effective representation and participation of workers' organizations in order to contribute to the development of policies for achieving broad-based social progress, in particular for promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all;

26. *Also stresses* that non-discrimination against older persons, especially in the labour market, is crucial;

27. *Acknowledges* the important nexus between international migration and social development, and stresses the importance of effectively enforcing labour laws applicable to migrant workers and members of their families, including, inter alia, any related to remuneration, conditions of health, safety at work and the right of freedom of association, and reaffirms that migrants, regardless of their immigration status, should be accorded the protection of all human rights;

28. *Recognizes* the importance of the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;

29. *Reaffirms* the critical role of both formal and non-formal education in the achievement of full employment and decent work for all, in particular basic education and training for eradicating illiteracy; and in this regard, also reaffirms the need to intensify efforts to implement effectively the International Plan of Action for the United Nations Literacy Decade and to integrate substantially those efforts in the Education for All process and other activities of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, as well as other literacy initiatives within the framework of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals;

30. *Also reaffirms* that priority needs to be given to providing training and skills enhancement to increase the employability of the workforce and its adaptability to changing labour markets and that comprehensive policies need to be designed to provide access to education, vocational education and technical training, capacity-building, upgrading skills and acquisition of new knowledge and lifelong learning, and to raise the quality of education with the help of the international community, as appropriate;

31. *Emphasizes* that promoting decent work aims at the overall improvement of living and working conditions for all and encourages efforts, as appropriate to the country context, to address the challenge to gradually formalizing economic activities in the informal sector and improving working conditions and achieving increased social protection coverage for all therein;

32. *Stresses* the importance of promoting corporate social responsibility and accountability, encourages responsible business practices such as those promoted by the Global Compact and invites the private sector to take into account not only the economic and financial but also the developmental, social, human rights, gender and environmental implications of its undertakings; and underlines the importance of the International Labour Organization Tripartite Declaration of Principles Concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy;

33. *Invites*, being mindful of General Assembly resolution 62/131 of 18 December 2007, the Commission for Social Development and other relevant entities of the United Nations system to continue to integrate into their work programmes and give priority attention to the Copenhagen commitments and the declaration of the Commission on the tenth anniversary of the World Summit for Social Development, [66] to continue to be actively involved in their follow-up and to monitor the achievement of those commitments and undertakings; and to emphasize in its review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development,[60] the increased exchange of national, regional and international experiences, the focused and interactive dialogues among experts and practitioners and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

34. *Calls for* increased national investment in and international development funding and investment flows to developing countries and countries with economies in transition that are targeted to sectors of the economy with greater potential in order to generate productive employment and decent work for all and strongly encourages multilateral and bilateral donor and inter-agency cooperation in the pursuit of these goals and full and productive employment and decent work for all, in accordance with national development strategies;

35. *Encourages* all relevant organizations of the United Nations system to collaborate in using, adapting and evaluating the application of the *Toolkit for Mainstreaming Employment and Decent Work*[67] developed by the International Labour Organization and endorsed by the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination;

36. *Calls on* the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies to assess and adopt in their action plans, as appropriate within their respective mandates, the three-phased approach proposed by the International Labour Organization to promote the goals of full employment and decent work for all as presented in the report of the Secretary-General entitled "The role of the United Nations system in promoting full and productive employment and decent work for all";[68]

37. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system and invites financial institutions to support efforts to mainstream the goals of full and productive employment and decent work for all in their policies, programmes and activities; and in this regard, invites stakeholders to duly take account of the International Labour Organization decent-work country programmes

---

[66] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2005, Supplement No. 6* (E/2005/26), chap. I, sect. A; see also Economic and Social Council decision 2005/234 of 21 July 2005.

[67] Geneva, International Labour Office, 2007.

[68] E/2007/49.

in order to achieve a more coherent and pragmatic United Nations approach to development at the national level on a voluntary basis;

38. *Decides* to keep full and productive employment and decent work for all under review and requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the present resolution to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-seventh session and to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session as part of the report on the outcome of the implementation of the World Summit for Social Development and of the twenty-fourth special session of the Assembly.

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/19
Future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2005/11 of 21 July 2005 on the future organization and methods of work of the Commission for Social Development, in which the Economic and Social Council decided that the Commission should review the functioning of the two-year review and policy cycle in order to ensure that that approach enhanced its effectiveness and functioning,

Recalling also its resolution 2006/18 of 26 July 2006, in which the Economic and Social Council noted the usefulness of identifying the themes for the 2009-2010 review and policy cycle during the forty-sixth session of the Commission,

Noting that the Commission discussed the priority theme of "Promoting full employment and decent work for all" at its forty-fifth and forty-sixth sessions, as the first of the core themes of the World Summit for Social Development addressed under the two-year review and policy cycle,

1. *Reaffirms* that discussing one core issue as presented in the outcome document of the World Summit for Social Development[69] over a two-year period allows the Commission for Social Development to go into greater depth by also addressing related cross-cutting issues, emerging issues and linkages with other issues relevant to the theme under discussion;

2. *Decides* that the priority theme for the 2009-2010 review and policy cycle should be "Social integration", taking into account its relationship with poverty eradication and full employment and decent work for all;

3. *Takes note* of its decision in resolution 2005/11, as recalled in resolution 2006/18, that the Commission should discuss each of the core themes of the World Summit for Social Development — poverty eradication, full employment and social integration — under the two-year review and policy cycle;

4. *Notes* the usefulness of identifying the theme for the 2011-2012 review and policy cycle during the forty-eighth session of the Commission;

[69] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

5. *Decides* that the Commission for Social Development should maintain the two-year review and policy cycle until its fiftieth session and that it should continue to keep its methods of work under review.

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/20
Further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 37/52 of 3 December 1982, by which the Assembly adopted the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[70] 48/96 of 20 December 1993, by which it adopted the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, and 61/106 of 13 December 2006, by which it adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Recalling its resolution 2005/9 of 21 July 2005 on the further promotion of equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities and protection of their human rights, as well as General Assembly resolutions 60/131 of 16 December 2005 and 62/127 and 62/170 of 18 December 2007,

Welcoming the fact that since the opening for signature of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[71] and the Optional Protocol thereto[72] on 30 March 2007, one hundred and twenty-five States have signed and thirty States have ratified the Convention and seventy-one States have signed and eighteen States have ratified the Optional Protocol, and looking forward to their entering into force,

Mindful of the need to design, adopt and implement effective strategies, policies and programmes to promote and protect the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities as well as to promote their full and effective participation in the civil, political, economic, social and cultural spheres on an equal basis with others in order to achieve a society for all,

Stressing the need to enhance complementarity and synergy in the implementation of the United Nations disability agenda through the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities,

Encouraging States to continue to formulate comprehensive and coherent policies and action plans, as well as projects, that promote international cooperation and technical assistance, particularly to enhance the capacities of Government agencies and institutions, as well as civil society, including organizations of persons with disabilities, to implement programmes on disability for the equalization of

[70] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1; annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV).
[71] General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.
[72] Ibid., annex II.

opportunities for, the full enjoyment of all human rights by, and the well-being of persons with disabilities,

Noting with grave concern that persons with disabilities are subject to multiple or aggravated forms of discrimination, and recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty affecting the majority of persons with disabilities, who continue to be excluded from the benefits of development, such as education and access to gainful and productive employment and decent work as well as appropriate health care and accessible social services,

1. *Welcomes* the work of the Special Rapporteur on Disability of the Commission for Social Development, and takes note of her report on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities;[73]

2. *Decides* to renew the mandate of the Special Rapporteur until 31 December 2011 in accordance with the provisions set down in section 4 of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities[74] to further their promotion and monitoring, including the human rights dimensions of disability, and the provisions of the present resolution;

3. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to further:

(a) Advocate the equalization of opportunities for, the full enjoyment of all human rights by, and the well-being of persons with disabilities in all respects, in line with the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities, the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons[70] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities;[71]

(b) Create awareness of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, including for the purpose of ensuring its wider signature and ratification by Member States;

(c) Act as a catalyst to promote international and technical cooperation on disability issues, including by identifying strategic areas for the exchange and sharing of expertise, best practices, knowledge, information and relevant technologies, in order to enhance the capacity-building of Member States;

(d) Collaborate, in the fulfilment of the above tasks, with all relevant stakeholders, including organizations of persons with disabilities;

4. *Calls upon* all Governments to continue to cooperate and engage in direct dialogue with the Special Rapporteur and to provide him or her with all the relevant information needed to fulfil the mandate effectively;

5. *Calls upon* those States and regional integration organizations that have not yet signed or ratified the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto[72] to consider doing so as a matter of priority;

6. *Urges* Governments, the Secretary-General, intergovernmental organizations and non-governmental organizations, and invites relevant human rights treaty bodies, relevant bodies and organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions, multilateral development agencies and

---

[73] E/CN.5/2007/4.

[74] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

regional commissions, in accordance with their mandates, to create greater awareness and support for the further implementation of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons, the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and to promote the enjoyment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the equalization of opportunities and the well-being of persons with disabilities, and to improve consultation, exchange of information and coordination;

7. *Encourages* Governments, intergovernmental organizations, non-governmental organizations and the private sector to continue to contribute to the United Nations Voluntary Fund on Disability in order to support the activities of the Special Rapporteur as well as new and expanded initiatives to strengthen national capacities for the equalization of opportunities by, for and with persons with disabilities;

8. *Expresses concern* at the insufficiency of resources for the Special Rapporteur, and recognizes the importance of providing adequate resources for the implementation of his or her mandate by the Special Rapporteur;

9. *Requests* the Special Rapporteur to submit to the Commission for Social Development an annual report on his or her activities in implementing the present resolution.

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/21
Mainstreaming disability in the development agenda

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[75] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session,[76] as well as a continued global dialogue on social development issues, constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels,

Recalling its previous resolutions concerning persons with disabilities and the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly,

Acknowledging that the majority of the 650 million persons with disabilities in the world live in conditions of poverty, and in this regard recognizing the critical need to address the negative impact of poverty on persons with disabilities,

Acknowledging also that persons with disabilities, in particular women and children with disabilities, are subject to aggravated and multiple forms of discrimination,

---

[75] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6-12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[76] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

Convinced that addressing the profound social, cultural and economic disadvantage experienced by many persons with disabilities and that promoting the progressive removal of barriers to their full and effective participation in all aspects of development will further the equalization of opportunities and contribute to the realization of a "society for all" in the twenty-first century,

Welcoming the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[77] and the Optional Protocol thereto[78] on 13 December 2006 and the fact that since their opening for signature on 30 March 2007, one hundred and twenty-five States have signed and thirty States have ratified the Convention and seventy-one States have signed and eighteen States have ratified the Optional Protocol,

Recognizing the importance of the forthcoming fifth review and appraisal of the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[79] including its updating, to be conducted by the General Assembly in 2008,

Concerned that halfway through the target date of 2015, the situation of persons with disabilities has not been adequately considered, including in the discussions and reports on the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Calls upon* those States that have not yet done so to consider signing and ratifying the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities[77] and the Optional Protocol thereto[78] as a matter of priority;

2. *Expresses concern* about the persistent gap between policy and practice regarding mainstreaming the perspective of persons with disabilities, including their rights and well-being, into the work of the United Nations in realizing the Millennium Development Goals;

3. *Encourages* States, entities of the United Nations system and other members of the international community to take advantage of the range of international normative and policy instruments on disability, including the World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons,[79] the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities,[80] and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in guiding their efforts to ensure that the issues related to persons with disabilities, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, are incorporated into the formulation of policies, the conduct of their mandate and missions and their budget allocations, aiming at the full and effective participation and inclusion of persons with disabilities in development, both as beneficiaries and as agents;

4. *Invites* States, relevant United Nations entities, including the agencies, funds and programmes, regional and international financial and development institutions, civil society and the private sector, to take into account and include mainstreaming of the issues related to persons with disabilities, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, when developing their work strategies and action plans to promote the education and training of personnel so as to foster

---

[77] General Assembly resolution 61/106, annex I.

[78] Ibid., annex II.

[79] A/37/351/Add.1 and Corr.1, annex, sect. VIII, recommendation I (IV), adopted by the General Assembly by its resolution 37/52.

[80] General Assembly resolution 48/96, annex.

increased sensitivity, knowledge and skills in respect of understanding how to address issues related to persons with disabilities in their respective mandates and work;

5. *Requests* relevant United Nations entities, including the agencies, funds and programmes, as well as regional and international financial institutions, to include issues related to persons with disabilities, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, when planning country offices in accordance with their mandates;

6. *Urges* States, relevant United Nations entities, including the agencies, funds and programmes, regional and international financial and development institutions, civil society and the private sector, to give priority to the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for persons with disabilities, as a key factor in ensuring that persons with disabilities benefit from development on an equal basis with others, and fully enjoy all human rights, including the right to work, and the opportunity to gain a living by work freely chosen or accepted, including by providing access to education and training, access to microcredit schemes and entrepreneurial opportunities, fostering a labour market and work environment that is open, inclusive and accessible to persons with disabilities, and promoting inclusive employment and human resources policies and reasonable accommodation in the workplace;

7. *Also urges* States, relevant United Nations entities, including the agencies, funds and programmes, regional and international financial and development institutions, civil society and the private sector to promote the participation of persons with disabilities on an equal basis with others in decision-making and their involvement in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of strategies, plans and programmes pertaining to them;

8. *Stresses* the need to enhance the accountability of all actors, including at the highest levels of decision-making, in the work of mainstreaming disability in the development agenda, including in the assessment of the impact of development efforts on the situation of persons with disabilities;

9. *Recognizes* the strategic importance of complementing efforts towards the mainstreaming of the issues related to persons with disabilities, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, inter alia, while considering the allocation of resources;

10. *Encourages* all States, concerned intergovernmental organizations and international organizations, civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, and the private sector, to engage in cooperative arrangements that aim at providing the necessary technical and expert assistance to enhance capacities in mainstreaming issues related to persons with disabilities, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, in development efforts, and in this regard encourages the United Nations Secretariat and other relevant bodies to find improved ways to enhance international technical cooperation;

11. *Encourages* States to mainstream disability in poverty eradication policies and strategies to ensure their accessibility, and in this regard encourages the international community to provide support and assistance;

12. *Urges* all States, international and regional organizations and civil society, in particular organizations of persons with disabilities, to ensure that international cooperation, including international development programmes, is inclusive of and accessible to persons with disabilities;

13. *Urges* States, relevant entities of the United Nations system, including the agencies, funds and programmes, and invites international and regional development organizations and financial institutions, to take concrete measures to incorporate issues related to persons with disabilities, including the perspective of persons with disabilities, and accessibility requirements into development cooperation and development finance activities;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a report on the implementation of the present resolution for submission to the Commission for Social Development at its forty-eighth session.

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/22
Preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Economic and Social Council

Recommends to the General Assembly the adoption of the following draft resolution:

"*The General Assembly*,

"*Recalling* its resolution 56/119 of 19 December 2001 on the role, function, periodicity and duration of the United Nations congresses on the prevention of crime and the treatment of offenders, and its resolution 62/173 of 18 December 2007 on the follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, in which it, inter alia, accepted with gratitude the offer of the Government of Brazil to act as host to the Twelfth Congress,

"*Considering* that, pursuant to its resolutions 415 (V) of 1 December 1950 and 46/152 of 18 December 1991, the Twelfth Congress is to be held in 2010,

"*Bearing in mind* the guidelines for and the format of United Nations congresses, as stipulated in paragraph 2 of its resolution 56/119, as well as paragraphs 29 and 30 of the statement of principles and programme of action of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, annexed to its resolution 46/152,

"*Bearing in mind also* the conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the meeting of the Intergovernmental Group of Experts on Lessons Learned from United Nations Congresses on Crime Prevention and

Criminal Justice, held in Bangkok from 15 to 18 August 2006,[81] which the General Assembly endorsed in its resolution 62/173,

"*Recognizing* the significant contributions of the United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice in promoting the exchange of experience in research, law and policy development and the identification of emerging trends and issues in crime prevention and criminal justice among States, intergovernmental organizations and individual experts representing various professions and disciplines,

"*Recalling* that, in its resolution 62/173, it requested the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, at its seventeenth session, to finalize the programme for the Twelfth Congress and to make its final recommendations on the theme and on the organization of round tables and workshops to be held by panels of experts, through the Economic and Social Council, to the General Assembly,

"*Recalling also* that, in its resolution 62/173, it requested the Secretary-General to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Twelfth Congress,

"*Recalling further* its resolution 60/177 of 16 December 2005, in which it endorsed the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, adopted by the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, as contained in the annex to that resolution and Economic and Social Council resolution 2005/15 of 22 July 2005, in which the Council endorsed the Bangkok Declaration,

"*Stressing* the importance of undertaking all preparatory activities for the Twelfth Congress in a timely and concerted manner,

"*Having considered* the report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice and preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[82]

"1. *Notes* the progress made thus far in the preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice;

"2. *Decides* to hold the Twelfth Congress in Salvador, Brazil, from 12 to 19 April 2010, with pre-Congress consultations to be held on 11 April 2010;

"3. *Also decides* that the high-level segment of the Twelfth Congress shall be held during the last two days of the Congress in order to allow Heads of State or Government and Government ministers to focus on the main substantive agenda items of the Congress;

"4. *Further decides* that the main theme of the Twelfth Congress shall be 'Comprehensive strategies for global challenges: crime prevention and criminal justice systems and their development in a changing world';

[81] E/CN.15/2007/6.
[82] E/CN.15/2008/14.

"5. *Approves* the following provisional agenda for the Twelfth Congress, finalized by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventeenth session:

"1. Opening of the Congress.

"2. Organizational matters.

"3. Children, youth and crime.

"4. Provision of technical assistance to facilitate the ratification and implementation of the international instruments related to the prevention and suppression of terrorism.

"5. Making the United Nations guidelines on crime prevention work.

"6. Criminal justice responses to the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons: links to transnational organized crime.

"7. International cooperation to address money-laundering based on existing and relevant United Nations and other instruments.

"8. Recent developments in the use of science and technology by offenders and by competent authorities in fighting crime, including the case of cybercrime.

"9. Strengthening international cooperation in fighting crime-related problems: practical approaches.

"10. Crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against migrants, migrant workers and their families.

"11. Adoption of the report of the Congress.

"6. *Decides* that the following issues shall be considered in workshops within the framework of the Twelfth Congress:

"(a) International criminal justice education for the rule of law;

"(b) Survey of United Nations and other best practices in the treatment of prisoners in the criminal justice system;

"(c) Practical approaches to preventing urban crime;

"(d) Links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime: international coordinated response;

"(e) Strategies and best practices against overcrowding in correctional facilities;

"7. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in cooperation with the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, to prepare a discussion guide for the regional preparatory meetings for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in a timely manner in order to enable the regional preparatory meetings to commence early in 2009, and invites Member States to be actively involved in that process;

"8. *Urges* participants in the regional preparatory meetings to examine the substantive items in the agenda and the topics of the workshops of the

Twelfth Congress and to make action-oriented recommendations to serve as a basis for the draft recommendations and conclusions for consideration by the Twelfth Congress and the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its nineteenth session;

"9. *Emphasizes* the importance for the workshops to be held within the framework of the Twelfth Congress, and invites Member States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other relevant entities to provide financial, organizational and technical support to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network for the preparations for the workshops, including the preparation and circulation of relevant background material;

"10. *Invites* donor countries to cooperate with developing countries to ensure their full participation, in particular in the workshops;

"11. *Requests* the Secretary-General to prepare a plan for the documentation for the Twelfth Congress, in consultation with the extended Bureau of the Commission;

"12. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of regional preparatory meetings for the Twelfth Congress and to make available the necessary resources for the participation of the least developed countries in those meetings and in the Congress itself, in accordance with past practice;

"13. *Encourages* Governments to undertake preparations for the Twelfth Congress at an early stage by all appropriate means, including, where appropriate, the establishment of national preparatory committees, with a view to contributing to focused and productive discussion on the topics to be discussed in the workshops and to participating actively in the organization of and follow-up to the workshops;

"14. *Reiterates its invitation* to Member States to be represented at the Twelfth Congress at the highest possible level, for example, by Heads of State or Government or Government ministers and attorneys general, to make statements on the theme and topics of the Congress and to participate in thematic interactive round tables;

"15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to facilitate the organization of ancillary meetings of non-governmental and professional organizations participating in the Twelfth Congress, in accordance with past practice, as well as meetings of professional and geographical interest groups, and to take appropriate measures to encourage the participation of the academic and research community in the Congress;

"16. *Again encourages* the relevant specialized agencies, United Nations programmes and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, as well as other professional organizations, to cooperate with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the preparations for the Twelfth Congress;

"17. *Requests* the Secretary-General to appoint a Secretary-General and an Executive Secretary of the Twelfth Congress, in accordance with past

practice, to perform their functions under the rules of procedure for United Nations congresses on crime prevention and criminal justice;

"18. *Requests* the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to accord sufficient time at its eighteenth session to reviewing the progress made in the preparations for the Twelfth Congress, to finalize in good time all the necessary organizational and substantive arrangements and to make its recommendations through the Economic and Social Council to the General Assembly;

"19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure the proper follow-up to the present resolution and to report thereon to the General Assembly through the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighteenth session."

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/23
Protection against trafficking in cultural property

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 56/8 of 21 November 2001, in which the Assembly proclaimed 2002 the United Nations Year for Cultural Heritage, and resolutions 58/17 of 3 December 2003 and 61/52 of 4 December 2006, on the return or restitution of cultural property to the countries of origin,

Recalling also the model treaty for the prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property,[83] which was adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and welcomed by the General Assembly in its resolution 45/121 of 14 December 1990,

Emphasizing the importance for States of protecting and preserving their cultural heritage in accordance with relevant international instruments such as the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property, adopted by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on 14 November 1970,[84] the Convention on Stolen or Illegally Exported Cultural Objects, adopted at Rome on 24 June 1995 by the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law,[85] and the Convention for the Protection of Cultural Property in the Event of Armed Conflict, adopted at The Hague on 14 May 1954,[86] and the two Protocols thereto of 14 May 1954 and 26 March 1999,

---

[83] *Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, 27 August-7 September 1990: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.91.IV.2), chap. I, sect. B.1.

[84] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 823, No. 11806.

[85] Available from www.unidriot.org.

[86] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 249, No. 3511.

Reiterating the significance of cultural property as part of the common heritage of humankind and as unique and important testimony of the culture and identity of peoples and the necessity of protecting it,

Reaffirming the necessity of international cooperation in preventing and combating all aspects of trafficking in cultural property,[87] and noting that such cultural property is especially transferred through licit markets, such as auctions, including through the Internet,

Reaffirming also its resolutions 2004/34 of 21 July 2004, entitled "Protection against trafficking in cultural property", and 2003/29 of 22 July 2003, entitled "Prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property",

Recalling the deliberations of the Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, and the Bangkok Declaration on Synergies and Responses: Strategic Alliances in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice,[88] in which the Congress took note of the increased involvement of organized criminal groups in the theft of and trafficking in cultural property and reaffirmed the fundamental importance of implementation of existing instruments and the further development of national measures and international cooperation in criminal matters, calling upon Member States to take effective action to that end,

Expressing concern about the demand for cultural property, which leads to its loss, destruction, removal, theft and trafficking,

Alarmed at the growing involvement of organized criminal groups in all aspects of trafficking in cultural property,

Expressing regret that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime could not convene the expert group meeting envisaged in Economic and Social Council resolution 2004/34, mainly because of the lack of extrabudgetary resources,

Stressing the importance of fostering international law enforcement cooperation to combat trafficking in cultural property and, in particular, the need to increase the exchange of information and experiences in order for competent authorities to operate in a more effective manner,

Stressing also that the entry into force of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[89] has created a new impetus to international cooperation in countering and curbing transnational organized crime, which will in turn lead to innovative and broader approaches to dealing with the various manifestations of such crime, including trafficking in cultural property,

---

[87] It is understood that the expression "trafficking in cultural property" shall be interpreted in conformity with the relevant international instruments, including the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property.

[88] *Eleventh United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, Bangkok, 18-25 April 2005: report prepared by the Secretariat* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.IV.7), chap. I, resolution 1; subsequently endorsed by the General Assembly in its resolution 60/177 of 16 December 2005, and contained in the annex thereto.

[89] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

Expressing the need, where appropriate, to strengthen and fully implement mechanisms for the return or restitution of cultural property after it has been stolen or trafficked and for its protection and preservation,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on protection against trafficking in cultural property;[90]

2. *Welcomes* national, regional and international initiatives for the protection of cultural property, in particular the work of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and its Intergovernmental Committee for Promoting the Return of Cultural Property to its Countries of Origin or its Restitution in Case of Illicit Appropriation;

3. *Reiterates its request* that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in close cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, convene an open-ended intergovernmental expert group meeting, with interpretation in all the official languages of the United Nations, to submit to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighteenth session relevant recommendations on protection against trafficking in cultural property, including ways of making more effective the model treaty for the prevention of crimes that infringe on the cultural heritage of peoples in the form of movable property,[83] and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for those purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

4. *Encourages* Member States asserting State ownership of cultural property to consider means of issuing statements of such ownership with a view to facilitating the enforcement of property claims in other States;

5. *Urges* Member States and relevant institutions, as appropriate, to strengthen and fully implement mechanisms to strengthen international cooperation, including mutual legal assistance, in order to combat trafficking in cultural property, including trafficking committed through the use of the Internet, and to facilitate the recovery, return or restitution of cultural property;

6. *Urges* Member States to protect cultural property and prevent trafficking in such property by introducing appropriate legislation, including, in particular, procedures for the seizure, return or restitution of cultural property, promoting education, launching awareness-raising campaigns, mapping and carrying out inventories of cultural property, providing adequate security measures, developing the capacities and human resources of monitoring institutions such as the police, customs services and the tourism sector, involving the media and disseminating information on the theft and pillaging of cultural property;

7. *Also urges* Member States to take effective measures to prevent the transfer of illicitly acquired or illegally obtained cultural property, especially through auctions, including through the Internet, and to effect its return or restitution to its rightful owners;

8. *Further urges* Member States to continue to strengthen international cooperation and mutual assistance for the prevention and prosecution of crime against cultural property that forms part of the cultural heritage of peoples, and to

[90] E/CN.15/2006/14.

ratify and implement the Convention on the Means of Prohibiting and Preventing the Illicit Import, Export and Transfer of Ownership of Cultural Property[84] and other relevant international instruments;

9. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop its relations with the cooperative network established among the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the International Council of Museums, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the International Institute for the Unification of Private Law and the World Customs Organization in the areas of trafficking in cultural property and its return or restitution;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its nineteenth session on the implementation of the present resolution.

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/24
Strengthening prevention of urban crime: an integrated approach

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/175 of 18 December 2007 on strengthening the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme, in particular its technical cooperation capacity, in which the Assembly reaffirmed the importance of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme in promoting effective action to strengthen international cooperation in crime prevention and criminal justice, as well as of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the fulfilment of its mandate in crime prevention and criminal justice, including providing to Member States, upon request and as a matter of high priority, technical cooperation, advisory services and other forms of assistance, and coordinating with and complementing the work of all relevant and competent United Nations bodies and offices, and recalling also that, in that resolution, the Assembly drew attention to urban crime as an emerging policy issue,

Recalling also its resolution 2007/12 of 25 July 2007 on the strategy for the period 2008-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in which community-centred crime prevention was designated a result area,

Mindful of its resolution 1995/9 of 24 July 1995, in which it adopted guidelines for cooperation and technical assistance in the field of urban crime prevention, as contained in the annex to that resolution, and its resolution 2002/13 of 24 July 2002, in which it accepted the Guidelines for the Prevention of Crime contained in the annex to that resolution,

Recalling its resolutions 2005/22 of 22 July 2005 on action to promote effective crime prevention and 2006/20 of 27 July 2006 on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention, in which it acknowledged the need to achieve a balanced approach between crime prevention and criminal justice responses,

Considering that the fight against crime can effectively reach its objectives through a combination of national policies on criminal justice and crime prevention to address the causes of crime and violence, bearing in mind that allocating resources to crime prevention can greatly reduce the financial and social costs of crime,

Recognizing the importance of the engagement between civil society and law enforcement authorities in the planning and implementation of crime prevention activities,

Recalling the commitments made by the international community in the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[91] in particular regarding the fight against crime and the objective of making the right to development a reality for everyone,

1. *Encourages* Member States to adopt and strengthen, as appropriate, effective urban crime prevention responses, with a view to achieving an appropriate balance with criminal justice actions;

2. *Also encourages* Member States to integrate crime prevention considerations into all relevant social and economic policies and programmes in order to effectively address the conditions in which crime and violence can emerge;

3. *Requests* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to explicitly address the crime prevention component in its programme of work and reporting, where relevant, including good practices that integrate crime prevention and criminal justice;

4. *Invites* Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to support technical assistance activities in this area, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations.

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/25
International cooperation in preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2001/12 of 24 July 2001 and 2003/27 of 22 July 2003, on illicit trafficking in protected species of wild flora and fauna, and its resolutions 2000/35 of 18 October 2000 and 2006/49 of 28 July 2006, concerning the international arrangements on forests,

Bearing in mind the relevance of international instruments such as the Convention on Biological Diversity[92] and the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora,[93]

---

[91] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[92] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1760, No. 30619.
[93] Ibid., vol. 993, No. 14537.

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/98 of 17 December 2007, by which the Assembly adopted the non-legally binding instrument on all types of forests, contained in the annex to that resolution,

Recalling also resolution 16/1 adopted by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its sixteenth session,[94]

Noting with concern that illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources, constitutes a major source of concern because such activities have an adverse environmental, social and economic impact on many countries,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the meeting of the Open-ended Expert Group on International Cooperation in Preventing and Combating Illicit International Trafficking in Forest Products, including Timber, Wildlife and Other Forest Biological Resources, held in Jakarta from 26 to 28 March 2008;[95]

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue to provide the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime with information on measures taken pursuant to Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice resolution 16/1,[94] taking into consideration the emphasis that the Open-ended Expert Group, in its report, placed on, inter alia, the need for holistic and comprehensive national multisectoral approaches to preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources, as well as for international coordination and cooperation in support of such approaches, including through technical assistance activities to build the capacity of relevant national officials and institutions;

3. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to make available the text of the present resolution and the report of the Open-ended Expert Group to the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[96] at its fourth session;

4. *Also requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report on the implementation of the present resolution and to provide a brief summary of the mandates and the work of other relevant organizations in this area to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its eighteenth session.

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

---

[94] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2007, Supplement No. 10* (E/2007/30/Rev.1), chap. I, sect. D.

[95] E/CN.15/2008/20.

[96] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

2008/26
Promoting sustainability and integrality in alternative development as an important part of drug control strategy in States where illicit crops are grown to produce drugs

The Economic and Social Council,

Bearing in mind the provisions of the Single Convention on Narcotic Drugs of 1961,[97] that Convention as amended by the 1972 Protocol,[98] the Convention on Psychotropic Substances of 1971[99] and the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988,[100]

Recalling the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[101] in which Member States recognized that action against the world drug problem was a common and shared responsibility,[102]

Reaffirming the United Nations Millennium Declaration,[103] in particular the Millennium Development Goals of eradicating extreme poverty and hunger and ensuring environmental sustainability,[104]

Reaffirming also its resolutions 2003/37 of 22 July 2003 and 2006/33 of 27 July 2006 and Commission on Narcotic Drugs resolutions 45/14 of 15 March 2002[105] and 48/9 of 11 March 2005,[106]

Taking into consideration the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005[107] and the report entitled *Alternative Development: a Global Thematic Evaluation: Final Synthesis Report*,[108] prepared by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime,

Convinced that, in the review of the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[101] there is a genuine need for the international community to assess the way alternative development has been practised in the past and ensure that, overall, the approaches to alternative development are fully implemented,

Recognizing the significant achievements and efforts of countries in South-East Asia in recent decades towards eliminating illicit cultivation of opium poppy and cannabis and recognizing also the commitment of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to making South-East Asia free of illicit drugs by 2015,

---

[97] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 520, No. 7515.
[98] Ibid., vol. 976, No. 14152.
[99] Ibid., vol. 1019, No. 14956.
[100] Ibid., vol. 1582, No. 27627.
[101] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.
[102] Ibid., para. 2.
[103] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.
[104] See, inter alia, A/56/326, annex, and A/58/323, annex.
[105] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2002, Supplement No. 8* and corrigenda (E/2002/28 and Corr.1 and 2), chap. I, sect. C.
[106] Ibid., *2005, Supplement No. 8* (E/2005/28/Rev.1), part one, chap. I, sect. D.
[107] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2005* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.06.XI.2).
[108] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.05.XI.13.

Recognizing also the significant achievements of the Andean countries in the implementation of alternative development and preventive alternative development programmes, as presented in the fifth report of the Executive Director on the world drug problem,[109] and noting that those achievements were attained in accordance with national specificities, with significant national resources and with the support of international cooperation,

Recognizing further the success of the long-term, holistic and integrated approach to solving the problem of opium poppy cultivation, including its correlation with poverty, that has been applied for forty years in national and international programmes in Thailand, which led the United Nations Development Programme in May 2006 to present the first Human Development Lifetime Achievement Award to King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand as the initiator of that approach,

Acknowledging that the success of alternative development and preventive alternative development, as appropriate, may be dependent upon, inter alia, the following essential elements:

(a) Long-term investments by Governments and international donors;

(b) The efficiency of national institutions responsible for drug control policies and of institutions related to the promotion of alternative development;

(c) Synergy and trust among the Government, local administrations and communities in building local ownership;

(d) An adequate response to human needs and dignity in the context of sustainable rural development and community self-reliance;

(e) The creation of a value chain by utilizing local wisdom, capacity-building, marketing and entrepreneurship;

(f) Broader market access for alternative development products consistent with national and international obligations and consideration of measures to facilitate access and positioning in markets for alternative development products, taking into account applicable multilateral trade rules,

1. *Recalls* the Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development,[110] which continues to have practical relevance and in which it is stated that alternative development is an important component of a balanced and comprehensive illicit crop eradication strategy and is intended to promote lawful and sustainable socio-economic options for those communities and population groups that have resorted to illicit cultivation as their only viable means of obtaining a livelihood, contributing in an integrated way to the eradication of poverty;[111]

2. *Emphasizes* that the problem of illicit production of narcotic drugs is often related to development problems, in particular poverty, poor health conditions and illiteracy, and that it must be tackled in a larger development context through a holistic and integrated approach;

---

[109] E/CN.7/2008/2 and Add.1-6.

[110] General Assembly resolution S-20/4E.

[111] Ibid., para. 17.

3. *Agrees* on the relevance of enhancing alternative development and preventive alternative development, as appropriate, in a manner focusing on the sustainability and integrality of uplifting people's livelihood, and recommends that such elements be considered by relevant bodies in the United Nations system;

4. *Recognizes* the significant role played by developing countries with extensive expertise in alternative development and preventive alternative development and the importance of outreach activities aimed at promoting a set of best practices and lessons learned in that area and sharing those best practices and lessons learned with States affected by illicit crop cultivation, including those emerging from conflict, with a view to using them, where appropriate, in accordance with national specificities of each State;

5. *Urges* donor Governments, as well as multilateral, international and regional financial institutions, in conformity with the principle of shared responsibility and as a sign of their commitment to fighting illicit drugs in a comprehensive and balanced manner, to redouble their efforts to enhance international cooperation, especially trilateral cooperation aimed at utilizing the expertise of developing countries and the financial support of developed countries in assisting other developing countries in reducing illicit drug crops through alternative development and preventive alternative development, as appropriate, and to consider increasing their financial and material support and technical assistance and providing a flexible and sufficiently long-term commitment to States affected by illicit crop cultivation;

6. *Commends* the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for its continued and progressive work on alternative development, described in its report entitled *Alternative Development: A Global Thematic Evaluation: Final Synthesis Report*,[108] especially the lessons learned and the recommendations contained therein, and acknowledges the need to consider providing the Office with additional funding in that area;

7. *Calls upon* Member States, consistent with their national and international obligations, and relevant international organizations to consider measures to enable products of alternative development to have easier access to markets, taking into account applicable multilateral trade rules;

8. *Encourages* Member States, in the context of the review of the progress achieved in meeting the goals and targets set in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session,[101] to consider developing a set of international guiding principles on alternative development, based on the sharing of best practices and lessons learned in different countries and regions, and acknowledging the best practices and lessons learned in sustainable alternative livelihood development of Thailand, annexed to the present resolution;

9. *Requests* the Secretary-General to transmit the text of the present resolution to multilateral, international and regional financial institutions and to all Governments for consideration and implementation;

10. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

Annex
Best practices and lessons learned in sustainable alternative livelihood development of Thailand

1. First and foremost, alternative development, which in the context of the Thai experience is referred to as "sustainable alternative livelihood development", must be people-centred. The Doi Tung development project in Thailand served as the model for the present set of best practices and lessons learned. The outlook, design and implementation were developed taking into account a fundamental question: how will people benefit from this project? That became the key performance indicator for the project.

2. The main objective of sustainable alternative livelihood development is to transform poor and vulnerable communities, especially in rural areas, from social and economic dependency or sub-sufficiency to full socio-economic sufficiency, in a participatory manner and at a pace appropriate to each stage, to allow the changes to be accepted and introduced by the communities. Keeping in mind the goal of sustainability, development practitioners should see their role as facilitators of progress and should plan their exit strategy to enable the communities to continue the activities without external intervention.

3. Sustainability in this context means that the communities have sufficient economic capacity in their factors of production and marketing and are able to maintain equitable social and cultural integrity and live in harmony with their natural environment (coexist with nature). With this definition in mind, sufficient health care must be made available because sick people cannot be economically productive. Ideally, an income-generating mechanism should be employed that allows people and a healthy natural environment to benefit greatly from one another. Continuous education will ensure that future generations will be able to pursue legitimate livelihoods, cope with the pressures of globalization and create for themselves opportunities for growth.

4. When applying sustainable alternative livelihood development in the context of drug control, the eradication of illicit crops should not be the only immediate goal. The progressive introduction of viable alternative livelihoods in the broader context of rural development is needed to tackle the root cause of illicit crop cultivation — poverty — without severely curtailing the only available means of survival of the people involved.

5. Activities that provide people with alternative cash income and/or produce immediate health or social benefits within the first few months or days (so-called quick hits) are vital to building trust and enabling an immediate transition from illegitimate to legitimate sources of income, which can begin to transform the economic prospects of a community. Successful quick hits build confidence and strengthen cooperation among stakeholders at all levels, from people at the grass-roots level and local authorities to leaders at the national level.

6. Medium-term and long-term activities are introduced simultaneously in order to ensure that the economic and social benefits are long-lasting and that the areas concerned remain free of illicit drug cultivation for a long time. Development activities must be based on continuity: each activity should lead into another, build on the success of previous initiatives and, over time, increase the hope and capabilities of the persons involved.

7. It is necessary to achieve a balance between a bottom-up and a top-down approach. Strong and committed leadership is required to ensure that development policies and activities are based on a true understanding of the needs and concerns of the target communities at the grass-roots level. Clear and constant communication is critical, especially at the beginning, for knowledge and experiences to be transferred not only from development practitioners but also to them.

8. Viable livelihoods should be available to all members of the community: the young and the elderly; the fit and the infirm; and men and women alike. Having a variety of income-generating activities may serve as a safeguard against weakened interests in an individual product or activity. Livelihood diversification is in fact a major success factor in sustainable alternative livelihood development (single-crop solutions are rarely sustainable).

9. Combining local wisdom and available resources with a market-driven product development approach and effective management will lead to the creation of a viable value chain at the local level. Revenue from value-added goods locally manufactured by such an enterprise must contribute to the social benefits of the target communities and society in general. Such social entrepreneurship — the practice of using business profits to generate social goods — can lead to real socio-economic sustainability.

10. To ensure that development objectives are realized as expected, mechanisms must be in place to allow frequent assessments and necessary adjustments, starting with comprehensive census baseline data captured through both qualitative and quantitative development indicators. Project monitoring and evaluation hold development practitioners accountable for their action, and that is crucial, as people's lives depend on the performance of those practitioners and imprudent and uncaring development often has adverse effects.

11. Ultimately, the key to sustainable alternative livelihood development is community ownership, where capacities and economic activities have been developed to such an extent that the communities can become owners in their ventures instead of serving only as contract farmers or employees. Community ownership means not only physical ownership of the enterprises but also emotional ownership, on the part of the community, of its own development and future, from the very start.

12. Since the issue of sustainability envisages the long-term commitment of all parties involved, it also calls for longer-term and sufficiently flexible funding from a variety of sources, including Governments, international organizations, multilateral financial institutions and other donors and development partners.

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/27
Provision of international assistance to the most affected States neighbouring Afghanistan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2001/16 of 24 July 2001, 2002/21 of 24 July 2002, 2003/34 and 2003/35 of 22 July 2003 and 2005/27 of 22 July 2005 and other relevant resolutions on international assistance to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs,

Taking note with concern of the report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime entitled "Afghanistan: opium survey 2007", in which the Office emphasized that, in 2007, Afghanistan had produced 8,200 tons of opium, representing 93 per cent of global production,

Noting the progress that Afghanistan has made in implementing the National Drug Control Strategy of the Government of Afghanistan,[112] including the fact that the number of its provinces free of opium poppy more than doubled, from six to thirteen, in 2007,

Reaffirming the commitments assumed by Member States in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session[113] and the measures to enhance international cooperation to counter the world drug problem,[114]

Welcoming the Paris Pact initiative on assistance to States affected by the transit of illicit drugs,[115]

Acknowledging the ongoing efforts of the Government of Afghanistan and the international community, including States neighbouring Afghanistan, to counter the scourge of illicit drugs, despite the continuing increase in the illicit cultivation of opium poppy and the illicit production of opiates in Afghanistan,

Emphasizing that international drug traffickers are constantly changing their modus operandi, rapidly reorganizing and gaining access to modern technology,

Acknowledging that transit States are faced with multifaceted challenges related to the increasing amount of illicit drugs transiting through their territory as a result of the increasing supply and demand on illicit drug markets,

Keeping in mind that the bulk of the illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan are smuggled through the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan and other countries neighbouring Afghanistan before reaching their countries of destination,

Considering that a large number of transit States, in particular the States neighbouring Afghanistan, are developing countries or countries with economies in transition and are faced with multifaceted challenges, including rising levels of drug-related crime and increased prevalence of drug abuse,

---

[112] S/2006/106, annex.
[113] General Assembly resolution S-20/2, annex.
[114] General Assembly resolutions S-20/4 A to E.
[115] S/2003/641, annex.

Bearing in mind that the constantly changing tactics of drug traffickers and the introduction of new varieties of illicit drugs increase the challenges and harm that they cause in Afghanistan, in the States neighbouring Afghanistan and in other parts of the world,

1. *Reaffirms* its commitment, in accordance with the principle of shared responsibility, to counter the world drug problem in all its manifestations, in a coordinated manner, in particular by providing technical assistance and support to the transit States most affected by drug trafficking;

2. *Calls upon* the Government of Afghanistan to intensify, with the support of the international community, its efforts to continue implementing, in particular, the eight pillars[116] of the National Drug Control Strategy,[112] to identify and dismantle laboratories illicitly manufacturing heroin and morphine and to trace and curb the illicit supply of precursors;

3. *Commends* regional initiatives to strengthen international and regional cooperation aimed at countering the threat posed by the illicit production of drugs in Afghanistan and trafficking in drugs originating in that country;

4. *Encourages* cross-border cooperation among Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan;

5. *Calls upon* all Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide the technical assistance and support needed for strengthening the initiatives and efforts of Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan to fight drug trafficking, thereby also reducing the deleterious impact of illicit drugs in all parts of the world, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for those purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

6. *Encourages* the States neighbouring Afghanistan to enhance coordination through existing regional mechanisms for strengthening border cooperation and information exchange;

7. *Encourages* Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to provide technical assistance and support needed for strengthening the efforts of States neighbouring Afghanistan to fight drug trafficking, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for those purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

8. *Welcomes* the trilateral ministerial meeting held in Vienna in June 2007, with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, which brought together high-level officials from Afghanistan, the Islamic Republic of Iran and Pakistan, and supports the decision to hold another trilateral meeting in the Islamic Republic of Iran in 2008;

9. *Emphasizes* the importance of taking measures to reduce demand and the adverse consequences of drug abuse in conjunction with measures to reduce supply in order to effectively counter the menace posed by illicit drugs to the entire international community;

---

[116] S/2006/106, annex A.

10. *Calls upon* Afghanistan to mainstream, with the assistance of the international community, the counter-narcotics programme in the forthcoming Afghan national development strategy;

11. *Emphasizes* the need to strengthen the law enforcement capacity of the main transit States and the importance of inter-agency coordination in developing effective drug control strategies;

12. *Urges* the international partners, all relevant organizations of the United Nations and, in particular, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and invites international financial and development institutions to assist transit States, in particular the States neighbouring Afghanistan that are most affected by the transit of illicit drugs, by providing them with adequate technical assistance to effectively address the drug trafficking problem through a comprehensive and integrated shared plan, and invites Member States and other donors to provide extrabudgetary contributions for those purposes in accordance with the rules and procedures of the United Nations;

13. *Requests* the Executive Director of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to report to the Commission on Narcotic Drugs at its fifty-second session on the implementation of the present resolution.

42nd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/28
The role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration on strengthening efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the global partnership for development, adopted at the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2007 of the Economic and Social Council

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the United Nations Millennium Declaration[117] and the 2005 World Summit Outcome,[118]

Recalling also the ministerial declaration adopted at the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2007,[119]

Recalling further its decision 2007/261 of 27 July 2007 on the theme of the 2008 coordination segment,

Recognizing that the challenge of eradicating poverty and hunger requires a comprehensive and multidimensional response by the United Nations system, including the funds, programmes and agencies, as appropriate within their respective mandates,

---

[117] See General Assembly resolution 55/2.

[118] See General Assembly resolution 60/1.

[119] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/62/3/Rev.1), chap. III, sect. C, para. 90.

Reaffirming the commitments to the global partnership for development set out in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, the Monterrey Consensus of the International Conference on Financing for Development[120] and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development ("Johannesburg Plan of Implementation"),[121]

1. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to make further progress towards more comprehensive, coherent and multidimensional approaches in the formulation of their policies, programmes and operations supporting the eradication of poverty and hunger;

2. *Also requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to strengthen their efforts to provide policy support to developing countries and assist them upon request in building their capacity to analyse the impact of a broad range of policy areas on the eradication of poverty and hunger, including through the promotion of interdisciplinary research and studies;

3. *Invites* all member organizations of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to enhance policy coherence and cooperation in areas vital to achieving the eradication of poverty and hunger;

4. *Requests* all member organizations of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination to approach rural and urban development in an integrated manner and to consider ways to support countries' strategies for reducing urban poverty, as appropriate;

5. *Encourages* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system to promote policy coherence and cooperation on science and technology, where relevant, including information and communications technology where appropriate, for poverty reduction that should promote both the formulation of science and technology programmes and the development of national institutional capacities in science and technology in support of the eradication of poverty and hunger;

6. *Also encourages* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to coordinate their assessments of the impact of development cooperation on the eradication of poverty and hunger;

7. *Requests* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates and in consultation with Member States, to continue to promote multi-stakeholder approaches involving local authorities, civil society and the private sector, inter alia, through its system-wide coordination mechanisms for the eradication of poverty and hunger, as appropriate;

---

[120] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18-22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[121] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August-4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolution 2, annex.

8. *Encourages* the United Nations system, especially its funds, programmes and agencies, to continue to accord the highest priority to the eradication of poverty and hunger, as appropriate, in developing the common country assessment and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, or other frameworks and instruments guiding country-level operational activities, in consultation with Governments;

9. *Encourages* the funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations system, as appropriate within their mandates, to continue to strengthen efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger, including through the promotion of the global partnership for development, and supporting countries in that regard.

43rd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/29
Role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its agreed conclusions 1995/1 of 28 July 1995[122] and 2002/1 of 26 July 2002[123] and its relevant resolutions on the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including its resolutions 2007/8 of 25 July 2007, 2007/29 of 27 July 2007 and 2006/44 of 28 July 2006, its decisions 2006/206 of 10 February 2006 and 2006/274 of 15 December 2006 and General Assembly resolutions 50/227 of 24 May 1996, 52/12 B of 19 December 1997, 57/270 B of 23 June 2003, 60/265 of 30 June 2006 and 61/16 of 20 November 2006,

Recalling also the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits and the review of their implementation in the economic, social and related fields,

Reaffirming the need to fully implement the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and in this regard expressing its determination to enhance the momentum generated by the 2005 World Summit, in particular for strengthening the role of the Economic and Social Council through its new functions,

Recalling that the Economic and Social Council should increase its role in overseeing system-wide coordination and the balanced integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of United Nations policies and programmes aimed at promoting sustainable development, and reaffirming that the Commission on Sustainable Development should continue to be the high-level commission on

[122] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fiftieth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/50/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 22.

[123] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/57/3/Rev.1), chap. V, para. 9.

sustainable development within the United Nations system and to serve as a forum for consideration of issues related to integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development, as called for in General Assembly resolution 61/16,

Recognizing the important role of a strengthened Economic and Social Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 61/16, in promoting integrated and coordinated follow-up to conferences and summits,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16,[124]

1. *Reaffirms* the need to continue to strengthen the Economic and Social Council as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination and thus promote the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences in the economic, social and related fields, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations and relevant General Assembly resolutions, in particular resolutions 50/227, 57/270 B and 61/16;

2. *Welcomes* the holding of the first Development Cooperation Forum and the second annual ministerial review as steps forward in strengthening of the Economic and Social Council;

3. *Recognizes* the need to further enhance coordination and cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions, the regional commissions and other subsidiary bodies so as to allow the Council to carry out more effectively its crucial role as the central mechanism for system-wide coordination;

4. *Encourages* the functional commissions to continue to explore ways to engage agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system more systematically in their work within their respective mandates;

5. *Invites* the organizations of the United Nations system, including the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, to contribute, within their respective mandates, to the work of the Economic and Social Council, as appropriate, including to the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in accordance with relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16;

6. *Welcomes* the strengthened cooperation between the Economic and Social Council and the Bretton Woods institutions, the World Trade Organization and the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, and emphasizes that the interaction should be further improved;

7. *Stresses* that the preparation of the annual ministerial review should be fully supported by the United Nations system, especially the funds, programmes and specialized agencies, in accordance with the respective mandates, as appropriate, in coordination with national Governments;

8. *Requests* the functional commissions, the regional commissions and other relevant subsidiary bodies of the Economic and Social Council, in accordance with

[124] A/63/83-E/2008/77.

their mandates, as appropriate, to contribute to the annual ministerial review and to the Development Cooperation Forum, in the context of their respective annual workplans, taking into account their specificities;

9. *Stresses* the important contribution of civil society in the implementation of conference outcomes, and emphasizes that the contribution of non-governmental organizations and the private sector to the work of the Economic and Social Council should be further encouraged and improved, in accordance with the rules and procedures of the Council;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on measures taken to implement the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council for consideration by the Council at the coordination segment of its substantive session of the following year;

11. *Decides* to review the periodicity of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of the outcomes of and follow-up to major United Nations conferences and summits, in light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, at its substantive session of 2009, with a view towards further enhancing the effectiveness of the report;

12. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report on the above-mentioned subject for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009.

43rd plenary meeting
24 July 2008

2008/30
Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2005/32 of 26 July 2005, 2006/11 of 26 July 2006 and 2007/15 of 26 July 2007 and its decision 2002/304 of 25 October 2002,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau;[125]

2. *Welcomes* the decision of the Peacebuilding Commission to place Guinea-Bissau in its agenda and the creation of a country-specific configuration;

3. *Takes note* of the political and economic evolution of the situation and welcomes the support of the international community for this process;

4. *Looks forward* to continued support for Guinea-Bissau from donors, the United Nations system and the Bretton Woods institutions and, in this regard, welcomes the decision by the Executive Board of the International Monetary Fund to renew access by Guinea-Bissau to emergency post-conflict assistance;

5. *Reaffirms* the importance of promoting sustainable development and improved governance as fundamental to consolidating peace, in addition to ongoing

[125] E/2008/55.

efforts for socio-economic recovery and reforms in the public administration, security and defence sectors;

6. *Invites* the partners of Guinea-Bissau to provide predictable and adequate resources to ensure the effective implementation of the strategic framework of the Peacebuilding Commission;

7. *Stresses* the importance of addressing the structural causes of conflict and, in this connection, urges continued support and funding for the implementation of the country's poverty reduction strategy, its security sector reform plan and its anti-narcotics operational plan;

8. *Expresses its appreciation* for the positive and constructive role of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau in supporting the country in its efforts to rebuild its economy and society, and invites its members to continue their support through the Peacebuilding Commission;

9. *Expresses its appreciation* to the Secretary-General for the support provided to the work of the Group;

10. *Decides* to terminate the mandate of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau;

11. *Invites* the Peacebuilding Commission to consider the work of the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Guinea-Bissau of the Economic and Social Council and to draw upon the lessons learned from that experience;

12. *Also invites* the Peacebuilding Commission to continue to inform it about the economic and social aspects of peacebuilding in Guinea-Bissau;

13. *Decides* to consider this matter at its substantive session of 2009 under the agenda item entitled "African countries emerging from conflict".

44th plenary meeting
25 July 2008

2008/31
Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 62/181 of 19 December 2007,

Recalling also its resolution 2007/26 of 26 July 2007,

Guided by the principles of the Charter of the United Nations affirming the inadmissibility of the acquisition of territory by force and recalling relevant Security Council resolutions, including resolutions 242 (1967) of 22 November 1967, 252 (1968) of 21 May 1968, 338 (1973) of 22 October 1973, 465 (1980) of 1 March 1980 and 497 (1981) of 17 December 1981,

Recalling the resolutions of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, including ES-10/13 of 21 October 2003, ES-10/14 of 8 December 2003, ES-10/15 of 20 July 2004 and ES-10/17 of 15 December 2006,

Reaffirming the applicability of the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949,[126] to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967,

Recalling the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights,[127] the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights[127] and the Convention on the Rights of the Child,[128] and affirming that these human rights instruments must be respected in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Stressing the importance of the revival of the Middle East peace process on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967), 338 (1973), 425 (1978) of 19 March 1978, 1397 (2002) of 12 March 2002, 1515 (2003) of 19 November 2003 and 1544 (2004) of 19 May 2004 and the principle of land for peace as well as compliance with the agreements reached between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization, the representative of the Palestinian people,

Reaffirming the principle of the permanent sovereignty of peoples under foreign occupation over their natural resources, and expressing concern in this regard about the exploitation of natural resources by Israel, the occupying Power, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan,

Convinced that the Israeli occupation has gravely impeded the efforts to achieve sustainable development and a sound economic environment in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, and expressing grave concern about the consequent deterioration of economic and living conditions,

Gravely concerned in this regard about the continuation of settlement activities by Israel and other related measures in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in and around occupied East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan in violation of international humanitarian law and relevant United Nations resolutions,

Gravely concerned also by the serious repercussions on the economic and social conditions of the Palestinian people caused by Israel's construction of the wall and its associated regime inside the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, and the resulting violation of their economic and social rights, including the right to work, to health, to education and to an adequate standard of living,

Recalling in this regard the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice on the *Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory*,[129] recalling also General Assembly

---

[126] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 75, No. 973.

[127] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

[128] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 1577, No. 27531.

[129] A/ES-10/273 and Corr.1.

resolution ES-10/15, and stressing the need to comply with the obligations mentioned therein,

Expressing grave concern at the extensive destruction by Israel, the occupying Power, of properties, agricultural land and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, including, in particular, in connection with its construction of the wall, contrary to international law, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem,

Expressing deep concern about continuing Israeli military operations and the continuing Israeli policy of closures and severe restrictions on the movement of persons and goods, including humanitarian personnel and food, medical, fuel and other essential supplies, via the imposition of crossing closures, checkpoints and a permit regime throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the consequent negative impact on the socio-economic situation of the Palestinian people, which remains that of dire humanitarian crisis, in particular in the Gaza Strip,

Gravely concerned by various reports of the United Nations and the specialized agencies regarding the inordinate rates of unemployment, widespread poverty and severe humanitarian hardships, including food insecurity and rising health-related problems, including high levels of malnutrition, among the Palestinian people, especially children, in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Expressing grave concern at the increasing number of deaths and injuries of civilians, including children and women,

Emphasizing the importance of the safety and well-being of all civilians, and calling for the cessation of all acts of violence, including all acts of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction, and all firing of rockets,

Conscious of the urgent need for the reconstruction and development of the economic and social infrastructure of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as the urgent need to address the dire humanitarian crisis facing the Palestinian people,

Commending the important work being done by the United Nations, the specialized agencies and the donor community in support of the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, as well as the assistance being provided in the humanitarian field,

Recognizing the efforts being undertaken by the Palestinian Authority, with international support, to rebuild, reform and strengthen its damaged institutions and promote good governance and emphasizing the need to preserve the Palestinian institutions and infrastructure and to ameliorate economic and social conditions,

Stressing the importance of national unity among the Palestinian people, and emphasizing the need for the respect and preservation of the territorial integrity and unity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem,

Calling on both parties to fulfil their obligations under the road map[130] in cooperation with the Quartet,

---

[130] S/2003/529, annex.

1. *Calls for* the lifting of the severe restrictions imposed on the Palestinian people, including those arising from ongoing Israeli military operations, and for other urgent measures to be taken to alleviate the desperate humanitarian situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, especially in the Gaza Strip;

2. *Stresses* the need to preserve the national unity and the territorial integrity of the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and to guarantee the freedom of movement of persons and goods throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as to and from the outside world;

3. *Demands* that Israel comply with the Protocol on Economic Relations between the Government of Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization signed in Paris on 29 April 1994;[131]

4. *Calls upon* Israel to restore and replace civilian properties, vital infrastructure, agricultural lands and governmental institutions that have been damaged or destroyed as a result of its military operations in the Occupied Palestinian Territory;

5. *Reiterates the call* for the full implementation of the Agreement on Movement and Access of 15 November 2005, particularly the urgent and uninterrupted reopening of Rafah and Karni crossings, which is crucial to ensuring the passage of foodstuffs and essential supplies, including fuel, as well as the unhindered access of the United Nations agencies to and within the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and expresses deep concern at any actions that threaten the integrity of the border crossings and the distribution of fuel;

6. *Calls upon* all parties to respect the rules of international humanitarian law and to refrain from violence against the civilian population in accordance with the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949;[126]

7. *Reaffirms* the inalienable right of the Palestinian people and the Arab population of the occupied Syrian Golan to all their natural and economic resources, and calls upon Israel, the occupying Power, not to exploit, endanger or cause loss or depletion of these resources;

8. *Calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease its destruction of homes and properties, economic institutions and agricultural lands and orchards in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, as well as in the occupied Syrian Golan;

9. *Also calls upon* Israel, the occupying Power, to cease the dumping of all kinds of waste materials in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan, which gravely threaten their natural resources, namely, the water and land resources, and pose an environmental hazard and health threat to the civilian populations, and calls for the further implementation of critical environmental projects, including the sewage treatment plant in the Gaza Strip;

---

[131] See A/49/180-S/1994/727, annex, entitled "Agreement on the Gaza Strip and the Jericho Area", annex IV.

10. *Reaffirms* that Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, are illegal and constitute a major obstacle to economic and social development, and calls for the full implementation of the relevant Security Council resolutions and compliance by Israel, the occupying Power, with international law, including the Fourth Geneva Convention;[126]

11. *Also reaffirms* that Israel's ongoing construction of the wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including in and around East Jerusalem, is contrary to international law and is isolating East Jerusalem, fragmenting the West Bank and seriously debilitating the economic and social development of the Palestinian people, and calls in this regard for full compliance with the legal obligations mentioned in the advisory opinion rendered on 9 July 2004 by the International Court of Justice[129] and in General Assembly resolution ES-10/15;

12. *Calls upon* Israel to comply with the provisions of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and to facilitate the visits of Syrian citizens of the occupied Syrian Golan whose family members reside in their mother homeland, the Syrian Arab Republic, via the Qunaitra entrance;

13. *Emphasizes* the importance of the work of United Nations organizations and agencies and of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and Personal Representative of the Secretary-General to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority;

14. *Expresses its hope* that the resumed peace process will speedily advance to pave the way for the establishment of the independent Palestinian State and the achievement of a just, lasting and comprehensive peace settlement in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions, and stressing in this regard the importance of the Madrid Conference, the Arab Peace Initiative and the principle of land for peace;

15. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session, through the Economic and Social Council, a report on the implementation of the present resolution and to continue to include in the report of the United Nations Special Coordinator an update on the living conditions of the Palestinian people, in collaboration with relevant United Nations agencies;

16. *Decides* to include the item entitled "Economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan" in the agenda of its substantive session of 2009.

44th plenary meeting
25 July 2008

2008/32
Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its seventh session

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolutions 2002/40 of 19 December 2002, 2003/60 of 25 July 2003, 2005/3 of 31 March 2005, 2005/55 of 21 October 2005, 2006/47 of 28 July 2006 and 2007/38 of 4 October 2007, all on public administration and development,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 50/225 of 19 April 1996, 56/213 of 21 December 2001, 57/277 of 20 December 2002, 58/231 of 23 December 2003, 59/55 of 2 December 2004 and 60/34 of 30 November 2005, all on public administration and development,

Recalling further paragraph 11 of General Assembly resolution 60/1 of 16 September 2005,

Taking note with appreciation of the pioneering work of the United Nations Programme on Public Administration, Finance and Development in supporting Member States with administrative reforms, public institution-building, civil service training and post-conflict reconstruction of public administrations during the past sixty years, since its inception in 1948,[132]

Recognizing that although the conditions and context of development and governance have changed, public administration priorities, including capacity-building for development and ownership of national development, still remain critical cross-cutting issues for the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the conclusions on the topic of capacity-building for development in the report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its seventh session;[133]

2. *Encourages* Member States to continue to strengthen their capacities to better utilize the various aid modalities[134] and to disseminate the understanding and implementation of capacity-building as a judicious combination of institution-building and human resource development,[135] whereby people, organizations, States and society as a whole develop and maintain their ability to manage their public affairs successfully through, among other means, fostering public participation in governance and development processes,[136] harnessing the potential of information and communications technology to promote people-centred development, effectively combining decentralization and centralization policies, and forging regional and national partnerships with institutions of public administration to provide needed training;[137]

3. *Emphasizes* that capacity-building is essential and needed in administrative restructuring, civil service reform, human resources development and

---

[132] See General Assembly resolution 246 (III).
[133] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 24* (E/2008/44).
[134] See General Assembly resolution 59/250, para. 30.
[135] See E/1997/86.
[136] See resolution 2005/3, para. 4.
[137] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2003, Supplement No. 4* (E/2003/44).

public administration training, improving performance in the public sector, financial management, public-private interaction, social development, developing infrastructure and protecting the environment, governmental legal and regulatory capacity, and the management and implementation of development programmes;[138]

4. *Invites* Member States to continue to monitor the progress made towards the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, and to prepare an inventory of good administrative policies implemented to support the Goals, including the necessary capacities, institutional development aspects and strategic visions concerning a modern civil service, and emphasizes that the United Nations system, particularly the Department of Economic and Social Affairs of the United Nations Secretariat and other concerned United Nations bodies, should support such efforts and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned;

5. *Stresses* that capacity-building for public administration is of utmost importance for all transitioning economies, the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction, and disaster/crisis management and preparedness, that capacity-building processes in those areas share a number of important common features and experiences concerning the interaction of societal, systemic, organizational and individual levels of action, and that Member States should share these experiences in a more systematic and comprehensive way;

6. *Emphasizes* that in capacity-building for post-conflict recovery and reconstruction, the continuity of administration and public services, the coherence of the public sector and a multi-stakeholder approach are important prerequisites, and that in capacity-building for post-disaster and crisis situations, the United Nations system, particularly the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and other United Nations bodies, should support efforts to distil and share lessons learned and best practices;

7. *Requests* the Secretariat to enhance its support for capacity-building,[139] including in the public sector, ensuring that available resources are adequate and existing resource levels are maintained;

8. *Also requests* the Secretariat to continually focus on the United Nations Public Service Awards, the United Nations Online Network in Public Administration and Finance, the Innovators Network, the *World Public Sector Reports* and the Global Forum on Reinventing Government, and further requests the Secretariat to continue its useful role in facilitating the implementation of the action lines contained in the Tunis Agenda for the Information Society;[140]

9. *Notes* the latest phase of the work done by the Committee of Experts on basic United Nations terminology in governance and public administration through a review of proposed definitions;

---

[138] See A/50/525-E/1995/122.

[139] See General Assembly resolution 60/1, para. 22 (f).

[140] See A/60/687.

10. *Also notes* the input by the Committee of Experts to the theme of the 2008 annual ministerial review: Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to sustainable development.

44th plenary meeting
25 July 2008

2008/33
Strengthening coordination of the United Nations and other efforts in fighting trafficking in persons

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the role of the Economic and Social Council in providing overall coordination and guidance for the United Nations operational development programmes and funds on a system-wide basis,

Recalling also the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[141] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing that Convention,[142]

Reaffirming all previous resolutions of United Nations bodies on the problem of trafficking in persons,

Recalling resolution 17/1 of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on efforts in the fight against trafficking in persons,[143] which underlined the need to continue to work towards a comprehensive and coordinated approach to the problem of human trafficking through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms,

Recognizing that the provision of effective support to the work of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols should be an important part of the coordination efforts of the United Nations system on the issue of trafficking in persons,

Noting the Vienna Forum to Fight Human Trafficking, held from 13 to 15 February 2008, the thematic debate of the General Assembly on human trafficking, held in New York on 3 June 2008, and the observations made at the thematic debate and the Vienna Forum,

Bearing in mind General Assembly resolution 61/180 of 20 December 2006, entitled "Improving the coordination of efforts against trafficking in persons", and Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/27 of 27 July 2006, entitled "Strengthening international cooperation in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking",

Recognizing the importance of bilateral, subregional and regional and international cooperation mechanisms and initiatives, including information exchanges on best practices, of Governments and intergovernmental and

---

[141] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2225, No. 39574.

[142] Ibid., vol. 2237, No. 39574.

[143] See *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 10* (E/2008/30), chap. I, sect. D.

non-governmental organizations in respect of addressing the problem of trafficking in persons, especially women and children,

Highlighting that strengthened international cooperation and coordination are needed to combat the activities of transnational criminal organizations and others that profit from the trafficking in persons, to protect and assist all victims, with full respect for their human rights, and to ensure the exercise of due diligence with respect to prevention and investigation and punishment of perpetrators,

Underlining the need to continue to work towards a comprehensive and coordinated approach to the problem of trafficking in persons through the appropriate national, regional and international mechanisms,

Recognizing that addressing the problem of trafficking in persons requires a comprehensive approach, including addressing social and economic factors that make persons more vulnerable to trafficking, such as poverty, lack of opportunity, discrimination and marginalization, as well as strengthening the rule of law, combating corruption and discouraging and reducing demand that fosters all forms of exploitation of persons, especially women and children, and that thus promotes trafficking,

1. *Urges* all States, individually and through international cooperation, as well as the United Nations system, to increase, in a coherent, comprehensive and coordinated manner, efforts to counter trafficking in persons;

2. *Urges* all States that have not yet done so to consider ratifying or acceding to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime[141] and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing that Convention,[142] as well as the Convention for the Suppression of the Traffic in Persons and of the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others;[144]

3. *Invites* all States Members of the United Nations to make full use of existing instruments against trafficking in persons;

4. *Invites* Governments, regional and international organizations, and civil society to address, inter alia, the economic and social factors that breed and encourage trafficking in persons as well as to provide for the physical, psychological and social recovery of victims of trafficking in persons through:

(a) Appropriate housing;

(b) Counselling and information, in particular as regards their legal rights, in a language that the victims of trafficking in persons can understand;

(c) Medical, psychological and material assistance;

(d) Employment, educational and training opportunities;

5. *Calls upon* Governments and relevant actors from the international community to take into account the age, gender and special needs of victims of trafficking in persons;

6. *Calls upon* all States to fully implement the provisions of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/27, entitled "Strengthening international cooperation

---

[144] United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 96, No. 1342.

in preventing and combating trafficking in persons and protecting victims of such trafficking";

7. *Calls for* full implementation of relevant instruments for the prevention and combating of trafficking in persons, and protection of victims of trafficking;

8. *Reiterates the invitation* to Member States to consider the advisability of establishing a United Nations strategy or plan of action on preventing trafficking in persons, prosecuting traffickers and protecting and assisting victims of trafficking;

9. *Welcomes* the work carried out under the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UN.GIFT) and encourages the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to continue to cooperate with relevant international organizations outside of the United Nations system, utilizing extrabudgetary resources, and to invite such organizations to participate, when appropriate, in the meetings of the Inter-Agency Cooperation Group against Trafficking in Persons and to keep Member States informed of the schedule of and the progress made by the Cooperation Group;

10. *Invites* Member States to provide voluntary contributions to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in order to facilitate optimum implementation of coordination functions;

11. *Highlights* the role of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Protocols in ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing that Convention;

12. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to provide the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme with sufficient resources for the full implementation of its mandates, in conformity with its high priorities, and to provide adequate support to the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

44th plenary meeting
25 July 2008

2008/34
Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming its agreed conclusions 1997/2 on mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system,[145] and recalling its resolutions 2001/41 of 26 July 2001, 2002/23 of 24 July 2002, 2003/49 of 24 July 2003, 2004/4 of 7 July 2004, 2005/31 of 26 July 2005, 2006/36 of 27 July 2006 and 2007/33 of 27 July 2007,

[145] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-second Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/52/3/Rev.1), chap. IV, para. 4.

Reaffirming also the commitment made at the 2005 World Summit to actively promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to further undertake to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender,

Acknowledging that enhancing women's opportunities, potential and activities requires a dual focus, namely, programmes aimed at meeting the basic and specific needs of women for capacity-building, organizational development and empowerment, together with gender mainstreaming in all programme formulation and implementation activities,

Recognizing that gender equality and the empowerment of women make an essential contribution to the work of the United Nations,

Noting the ongoing discussions in the General Assembly on the report of the Secretary-General[146] on the recommendations contained in the report of the High-level Panel on United Nations System-wide Coherence in the areas of development, humanitarian assistance and the environment,[147]

Reaffirming that gender mainstreaming is a globally accepted strategy for achieving gender equality and constitutes a critical strategy in the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action[148] and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly,[149]

Recognizing that training is critical for increasing awareness, knowledge, commitment and the capacity of staff to mainstream a gender perspective into United Nations policies and programmes and that the provision of effective gender training requires adequate financial and human resources,

Underlining the catalytic role played by the Commission on the Status of Women, as well as the important role played by the Economic and Social Council and the General Assembly, in promoting and monitoring gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system,

Expressing serious concern that the urgent goal of achieving 50/50 gender balance in the United Nations system, especially at senior and policymaking levels, with full respect for the principle of equitable geographical distribution, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations, remains unmet and that the representation of women in the United Nations system has remained almost static, with negligible improvement in some parts of the system, and in some cases has even decreased, as reflected in the report of the Secretary-General on the improvement of the status of women in the United Nations system,[150]

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General[151] and the recommendations contained therein;

---

[146] A/61/836.

[147] See A/61/583.

[148] *Report of the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 4-15 September 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.13), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[149] General Assembly resolution S-23/2, annex, and resolution S-23/3, annex.

[150] A/61/318.

[151] E/2008/53.

2. *Recognizes* that the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality remains an important forum for the exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas on gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system, and takes note of the ongoing discussions on the implementation of the policy and strategy for gender mainstreaming within the United Nations system;

3. *Encourages* all United Nations entities to continue investing in capacity development, including through mandatory training for all staff and personnel and training for senior managers, as a critical means of increasing the awareness, knowledge, commitment and competencies of staff with regard to mainstreaming a gender perspective in all United Nations policies and programmes;

4. *Recognizes* that a large gap remains between policy and practice and that building United Nations staff capacities alone is not sufficient for the Organization to meet its commitments and obligations with respect to gender mainstreaming, and requests the United Nations system, including United Nations system agencies, funds and programmes within their organizational mandates, to:

(a) Strengthen institutional accountability mechanisms, including through a more effective monitoring and evaluation framework for gender mainstreaming based on common United Nations evaluation standards;

(b) Strengthen accountability systems for both management and staff, through, inter alia, the inclusion of objectives and results related to gender mainstreaming in personnel workplans and appraisals;

(c) Continue efforts to achieve gender balance in appointments within the United Nations system at the Headquarters and country levels in positions that affect operational activities, including resident coordinator appointments and other high-level posts, with due regard to representation of women from developing countries and keeping in mind the principle of equitable geographical representation, in conformity with Article 101, paragraph 3, of the Charter of the United Nations;

(d) Ensure that programmes, plans and budgets visibly mainstream gender perspectives and allocate adequate financial and human resources for gender mainstreaming commensurate with the organizational gender equality goals, including for mandatory training on gender mainstreaming, especially gender analysis, for all staff and for the implementation of strategies, policies and action plans;

(e) Share and disseminate good practices, tools and methodologies electronically and through regular meetings on gender mainstreaming, including through the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and its task forces, as well as the United Nations country teams;

(f) Address gaps by strengthening coordination and synergy between policy and practice in mainstreaming a gender perspective in their respective fields of work;

(g) Enhance collaboration and coordination in the work of gender specialists and gender focal points working, inter alia, in the areas of peace and security, humanitarian affairs and economic and social development;

(h) Provide specific ongoing capacity-building, inter alia, through training for gender specialists and gender focal points, including in the field;

(i) Promote a United Nations system-wide common understanding of a results-based management framework with benchmarks and indicators for measuring progress in the application of the gender mainstreaming strategy to achieve gender equality;

(j) Include clear gender equality results and gender-sensitive indicators in their strategic frameworks;

(k) Assess the gaps in gender mainstreaming and unify methodologies for evaluation after the implementation of gender mainstreaming policies and programmes within the United Nations system;

(l) Strengthen collaboration between United Nations country teams on gender equality programmes, including through joint activities and the strengthening of the capacity of gender theme groups to support such activities;

(m) Mainstream a gender perspective and pursue gender equality in their country programmes, planning instruments and sector-wide programmes and articulate specific country-level goals and targets in this field in accordance with national development strategies;

(n) Collaborate with the resident coordinator system to provide gender specialist resources in support of gender mainstreaming in country-level activities in all sectors in which they operate, working closely with relevant national counterparts;

(o) Promote inter-agency cooperation through the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality and the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, through its High-level Committee on Programmes, the United Nations Development Group and its High-level Committee on Management, in order to ensure consistency and synergy in the implementation of the United Nations system-wide policy and strategy on gender mainstreaming;

(p) Promote the collection, analysis and use of data disaggregated by sex during programme development and evaluation of gender mainstreaming to assess progress towards achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women;

5. *Requests* all relevant United Nations entities to maintain their efforts to raise awareness of gender issues within their organizations and across the United Nations system;

6. *Stresses* the important role that senior management plays in creating an environment that actively supports gender mainstreaming, and calls upon it to perform that role;

7. *Requests* the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality to continue to provide practical support to its members in gender mainstreaming, explore possibilities for developing an accessible and consolidated database of trained facilitators at the country and regional levels, in consultation with Member States, and report regularly to the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination in order to facilitate the incorporation of gender mainstreaming perspectives into their work;

8. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009 a detailed report on progress made in the implementation of the present resolution, including updated information on the implementation of paragraph 4 of Council resolution 2006/36.

44th plenary meeting
25 July 2008

2008/35
United Nations Institute for Training and Research

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling General Assembly resolutions 51/188 of 16 December 1996, 52/206 of 18 December 1997, 53/195 of 15 December 1998, 54/229 of 22 December 1999, 55/208 of 20 December 2000, 56/208 of 21 December 2001, 57/268 of 20 December 2002, 58/223 of 23 December 2003, 59/252 of 22 December 2004, 60/213 of 22 December 2005 and 62/210 of 19 December 2007 and its decision 61/542 of 20 December 2006,

Welcoming the decision to streamline the reporting arrangements of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/210,

Recalling in particular paragraph 9 of General Assembly resolution 62/210,

Taking note of the report of the Secretary-General,[152]

Noting that the Institute is self-funded to date, not receiving any kind of subsidies from the United Nations regular budget, and delivers, free of charge, training courses to diplomats and delegates accredited to United Nations Headquarters in New York and to the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi,

Stressing that core diplomatic training offered by the Institute is a service accessible to diplomats of the entire membership of the United Nations and strengthens capacities of diplomats to perform their multilateral duties,

Noting the solid overall financial situation of the Institute, with a projected increase of funding of at least 26 per cent between the previous and current bienniums, and expressing its appreciation to the Governments and private institutions that have made or pledged financial and other contributions to the Institute,

Noting also that, despite the growing need for training and capacity development, voluntary contributions remain at a low level, putting at risk the training courses that the Institute delivers to diplomats and delegates accredited to United Nations Headquarters in New York and to the United Nations Offices at Geneva, Vienna and Nairobi,

Reiterating that training and capacity-development activities should be accorded a more visible and larger role in support of the management of

[152] E/2008/72.

international affairs, and in the execution of the economic and social development programmes of the United Nations system,

1. *Acknowledges* the progress made by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research, in light of the strategic reforms introduced by its Executive Director and endorsed by its Board of Trustees, for the Institute to be a centre of excellence;

2. *Also acknowledges* the work of the Board of Trustees and welcomes the contributions of its newly reconstituted membership with respect to guiding the Institute through its reforms;

3. *Considers* that the core diplomatic training offered by the Institute is unique in its beneficiary base and its reliance on United Nations expertise;

4. *Notes with concern* that a lack of voluntary contributions could lead to a cessation of this service which is particularly important for the training of delegates from developing and least developed countries;

5. *Appeals*, in this regard, to the Institute to continue its fund-raising strategy and to all Governments, in particular those of developed countries, and to private institutions that have not yet contributed financially or otherwise to the Institute, to give it their generous financial and other support, and urges the States that have interrupted their voluntary contributions to consider resuming them in view of the Institute's strategic reforms;

6. *Requests*, in this regard, the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its sixty-third session on the issue of financing the core diplomatic training activities of the Institute.

44th plenary meeting
25 July 2008

2008/36
Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations

The Economic and Social Council,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 46/182 of 19 December 1991 and the guiding principles contained in the annex thereto, and recalling other relevant resolutions of the Assembly and relevant resolutions and agreed conclusions of the Economic and Social Council,

Welcoming the decision to consider the theme "Building capabilities and capacities at all levels for timely humanitarian assistance, including disaster risk reduction" at the humanitarian affairs segment of its substantive session of 2008,

Welcoming also the decision to hold panels on "Disaster risk reduction and preparedness: addressing the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including the impact of climate change" and "Humanitarian challenges related to global food aid, including enhancing international efforts and cooperation in this field" and to hold an informal event on "Coordination in the transition phase between emergency relief and sustainable recovery",

Expressing grave concern at the increase in the number of people affected by humanitarian emergencies, including those associated with natural hazards and complex emergencies, and at the increased impact of natural disasters as well as at the displacement resulting from humanitarian emergencies,

Reaffirming the need for all actors engaged in the provision of humanitarian assistance in situations of complex emergencies and natural disasters to promote and fully respect the humanitarian principles of humanity, neutrality, impartiality and independence,

Reiterating the need to mainstream a gender perspective into humanitarian assistance in a comprehensive and consistent manner, and taking note of the updated policy of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on gender equality in humanitarian action,

Expressing its deep concern at the increasing challenges posed to Member States and to the United Nations humanitarian response capacity by the consequences of natural disasters, including the impact of climate change, and by the humanitarian implications of the current global food crisis,

Condemning the increasing number of attacks and other acts of violence against humanitarian personnel, and expressing its deep concern about the implications for the provision of humanitarian assistance to populations in need,

Recognizing the clear relationship between emergency, rehabilitation and development, and reaffirming that, in order to ensure a smooth transition from relief to rehabilitation and development, emergency assistance must be provided in ways that will be supportive of recovery and long-term development, and that emergency measures should be seen as a step towards long-term development,

Welcoming the holding of the High-level Conference on World Food Security in Rome from 3 to 5 June 2008, and noting the importance of implementing its outcome, including those elements related to humanitarian assistance,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations;[153]

2. *Encourages* Member States to create and strengthen an enabling environment for the capacity-building of their national and local authorities, national societies of the Red Cross and Red Crescent, and national and local non-governmental and community-based organizations in providing timely humanitarian assistance, and also encourages the international community, the relevant entities of the United Nations system and other relevant institutions and organizations to support national authorities in their capacity-building programmes, including through technical cooperation and long-term partnerships based on recognition of their important role in providing humanitarian assistance;

3. *Stresses* that the United Nations system should make efforts to enhance existing humanitarian capacities, knowledge and institutions, including, as appropriate, through the transfer of technology and expertise to developing countries, and encourages the international community to support efforts of Member States aimed at strengthening their capacity to prepare for and respond to disasters;

[153] A/63/81-E/2008/71.

4. *Urges* Member States to develop, update and strengthen disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures at all levels, in accordance with priority 5 of the Hyogo Framework for Action,[154] taking into account their own circumstances and capacities and in coordination with relevant actors, as appropriate, and encourages the international community and relevant United Nations entities to continue to support national efforts in this regard;

5. *Encourages* Member States and, where applicable, regional organizations to strengthen operational and legal frameworks for international disaster relief, taking into account, as appropriate, the Guidelines for the Domestic Facilitation and Regulation of International Disaster Relief and Initial Recovery Assistance, adopted at the thirtieth International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent held in Geneva in November 2007;

6. *Calls upon* the relevant organizations of the United Nations system and, as appropriate, other relevant humanitarian actors to continue to strengthen the coordination of humanitarian assistance at the field level, including with national authorities of the affected State, as appropriate, and to further enhance transparency, performance and accountability;

7. *Recognizes* the benefits of engagement of and coordination with relevant humanitarian actors to the effectiveness of humanitarian response, and encourages the United Nations to continue to pursue efforts to strengthen partnerships at the global level with the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, relevant humanitarian non-governmental organizations and other participants of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee;

8. *Urges* Member States to continue to take the necessary steps to ensure the safety and security of humanitarian personnel operating within their borders, recognizes the need for appropriate collaboration between humanitarian actors and relevant authorities of the affected State in matters related to their safety and security, requests the Secretary-General to continue his efforts to contribute to enhancing the safety and security of personnel involved in United Nations humanitarian operations, and urges Member States to ensure that perpetrators of crimes committed on their territory against humanitarian personnel do not operate with impunity and are brought to justice as provided for by national laws and obligations under international law;

9. *Welcomes* decisions taken during the United Nations Climate Change Conference in 2007, in particular the Bali Action Plan,[155] encourages Member States, as well as regional organizations and relevant international organizations, in accordance with their specific mandates, to support adaptation to the effects of climate change and to strengthen disaster risk reduction and early warning systems in order to minimize the humanitarian consequences of natural disasters, including the impact of climate change, and also encourages relevant entities to continue research on these humanitarian implications;

---

[154] Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters, adopted by the World Conference on Disaster Reduction (A/CONF.206/6 and Corr.1), chap. I, resolution 2.

[155] FCCC/CP/2007/6/Add.1, decision 1/CP.13.

10. *Takes note* of the recent establishment by the Secretary-General of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis, and encourages its continued engagement with Member States;

11. *Takes note with interest* of the section on the use of foreign military assets in disaster relief contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations,[156] emphasizes the fundamentally civilian character of humanitarian assistance, and reaffirms the need in situations where military capacity and assets are used to support the implementation of humanitarian assistance, for their use to be undertaken with the consent of the affected State and in conformity with international law, including international humanitarian law, as well as humanitarian principles;

12. *Recalls* the Guidelines on the Use of Military and Civil Defence Assets in Disaster Relief, also known as the Oslo Guidelines, stresses the value of their use, and invites Member States to raise awareness about them;

13. *Requests* Member States, relevant United Nations organizations and other relevant actors to ensure that all aspects of humanitarian response address the specific needs of women, girls, men and boys, including through the improved collection, analysis and reporting of sex- and age-disaggregated data, taking into account, inter alia, the available information provided by States;

14. *Urges* Member States to continue to prevent, investigate and prosecute acts of gender-based violence, including sexual violence in humanitarian emergencies, calls upon Member States and relevant organizations to strengthen support services to victims of such violence, and also calls for a more effective response in this regard;

15. *Welcomes* the continued efforts to strengthen the humanitarian response capacity and the progress made in strengthening support to resident/humanitarian coordinators, including by improving their identification, selection and training, in order to provide a timely, predictable and appropriate response to humanitarian needs and to strengthen United Nations coordination activities at the field level, and requests the Secretary-General to continue efforts in this regard, in consultation with Member States;

16. *Encourages* Member States, the private sector and other relevant entities to make contributions and consider increasing their contributions to humanitarian funding mechanisms, including consolidated and flash appeals, the Central Emergency Response Fund and other funds, based on and in proportion to assessed needs, as a means of ensuring flexible, predictable, timely, needs-based and, where possible, multi-year and additional resources, to meet global humanitarian challenges;

17. *Calls upon* United Nations humanitarian organizations, in consultation with Member States, as appropriate, to strengthen the evidence base for humanitarian assistance by further developing common mechanisms to improve the quality, transparency and reliability of humanitarian needs assessments, to assess their performance in assistance and to ensure the most effective use of humanitarian resources by these organizations;

---

[156] A/63/81-E/2008/71, sect. V.B, paras. 50-55.

18. *Requests* the Secretary-General to reflect the progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the present resolution in his next report to the Economic and Social Council and to the General Assembly on the strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations.

45th plenary meeting
25 July 2008

2008/37
Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling the Brussels Declaration[157] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[158]

Recalling also its decision 2001/320 of 24 October 2001, in which it decided to establish, under the regular agenda item entitled "Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the major United Nations conferences and summits", a regular sub-item entitled "Review and coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010",

Affirming the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2008,[159] and recognizing the impacts of the financial, economic, social and environmental challenges identified therein on the implementation of the Programme of Action,

Recalling the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of its substantive session of 2004 on the theme "Resources mobilization and enabling environment for poverty eradication in the context of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001 2010",[160]

Taking note of the Istanbul Declaration on the Least Developed Countries: Time for Action,[161] adopted at the Ministerial Conference of the Least Developed Countries held in Istanbul on 9 and 10 July 2007, on the theme "Making globalization work for the least developed countries",

Recalling its resolution 2007/31 of 27 July 2007,

Recalling also General Assembly resolutions 61/1 of 19 September 2006 and 62/203 of 19 December 2007,

---

[157] A/CONF.191/13, chap. I.
[158] Ibid., chap. II.
[159] E/2008/L.10; the final text will be issued in *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/63/3/Rev.1), chap. III.
[160] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-ninth Session, Supplement No. 3* (A/59/3/Rev.1), chap. III, para. 49.
[161] A/62/216, annex.

1. *Takes note* of the annual progress report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010;[162]

2. *Reaffirms* that the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[158] constitutes a fundamental framework for a strong global partnership aimed at accelerating sustained economic growth, sustainable development and poverty eradication in the least developed countries;

3. *Welcomes* the Declaration[163] adopted by Heads of State and Government and heads of delegations participating in the high-level meeting of the sixty-first session of the General Assembly on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, in which they recommitted themselves to addressing the special needs of the least developed countries by making progress towards the goals of poverty eradication, peace and development;

4. *Also welcomes* the contributions made in the lead-up to the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010, and notes the Cotonou Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010[164] as an initiative owned and led by the least developed countries;

5. *Further welcomes* the continued economic and social progress of many least developed countries, which has led to the fact that a number of countries are proceeding towards graduation from the list of least developed countries and that some of them are on track to achieving the growth and investment targets of the Programme of Action by 2010;

6. *Remains concerned*, however, about the insufficient and uneven progress achieved in the implementation of the Programme of Action, and stresses the need to address, within the time frame set by the Programme of Action, areas of weakness in its implementation and the continued precarious socio-economic situation in some least developed countries, through a strong commitment to the objectives, goals and targets of the Programme of Action;

7. *Expresses its deep concern* that the number of people living in extreme poverty remains significantly high in the least developed countries, while an increasing number of people are at risk of malnutrition, in particular children and women, and recognizes that there are important linkages between development, poverty eradication and gender equality;

8. *Stresses* that the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, can be effectively achieved in the least developed countries through, in particular, the timely fulfilment of the seven commitments of the Brussels Programme of Action;

9. *Underlines* the fact that, for the further implementation of the Programme of Action, the least developed countries and their development partners

---

[162] A/63/77-E/2008/61.

[163] See General Assembly resolution 61/1.

[164] A/61/117, annex I.

must be guided by an integral approach, a broader genuine partnership, country ownership, market considerations and results-oriented actions encompassing:

(a) Fostering a people-centred policy framework;

(b) Ensuring good governance at both the national and international levels as essential for the implementation of the commitments embodied in the Programme of Action;

(c) Building human and institutional capacities;

(d) Building productive capacities to make globalization work for the least developed countries;

(e) Enhancing the role of trade in development;

(f) Reducing vulnerability and protecting the environment;

(g) Mobilizing financial resources;

10. *Reaffirms* that progress in the implementation of the Programme of Action will require effective implementation of national policies and priorities for the sustained economic growth and sustainable development of the least developed countries, as well as strong and committed partnership between those countries and their development partners;

11. *Urges* the least developed countries to strengthen country ownership in the implementation of the Programme of Action by, inter alia, translating its goals and targets into specific measures within their national development frameworks and poverty eradication strategies, including, where they exist, poverty reduction strategy papers, promoting broad-based and inclusive dialogue on development with relevant stakeholders, including civil society and the private sector, and enhancing domestic resource mobilization and aid management;

12. *Urges* development partners to fully implement, in a timely manner, commitments in the Programme of Action and to exercise individual best efforts to continue to increase their financial and technical support for its implementation;

13. *Welcomes* the graduation of Cape Verde from the list of least developed countries;

14. *Reiterates its invitation* to all development and trading partners to support the implementation of the transition strategy of countries graduating from the list of least developed countries, to avoid any abrupt reductions in either official development assistance or technical assistance provided to the graduated country and to consider extending to the graduated country trade preferences previously made available as a result of least developed country status or reducing them in a phased manner;

15. *Encourages* the United Nations Resident Coordinator system, the Bretton Woods institutions, bilateral and multilateral donors and other development partners to assist the least developed countries in translating goals and targets of the Programme of Action into concrete actions in the light of their national development priorities and to collaborate with and provide support to, as appropriate, the relevant national development forums and follow-up mechanisms;

16. *Stresses* the crucial importance of integrated and coordinated follow-up, monitoring and reporting for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

17. *Also stresses*, within the context of the annual global reviews, as envisaged in the Programme of Action, the need to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action sector by sector, and in this regard invites the United Nations system and all relevant international organizations, consistent with their respective mandates, to report on the progress made in its implementation using quantifiable criteria and indicators to be measured against the goals and targets of the Programme of Action and to participate fully in reviews of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels;

18. *Reiterates its invitation* to the organs, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system and other relevant multilateral organizations to provide full support to and cooperation with the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States;

19. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure, at the Secretariat level, the full mobilization and coordination of all parts of the United Nations system to facilitate coordinated implementation and coherence in the follow-up to and monitoring and review of the Programme of Action at the national, subregional, regional and global levels, including through such coordination mechanisms as the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination, the United Nations Development Group, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs and the Inter-Agency Expert Group on the Millennium Development Goals Indicators;

20. *Expresses its concern* about the insufficiency of resources in the trust fund established for the participation of the least developed countries in the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council, and expresses its appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions;

21. *Reiterates* the critical importance of the participation of Government representatives from the least developed countries in the annual review of the Programme of Action by the Economic and Social Council, expresses, in this regard, its deep appreciation to those countries that have made voluntary contributions to the special trust fund established for this purpose by the Secretary-General, invites donor countries to continue to support the participation of two representatives from each least developed country in the annual review of the implementation of the Programme of Action, including by contributing in an adequate and timely manner to the special trust fund, and requests the Secretary-General to intensify his efforts to mobilize the necessary resources in order to ensure that the trust fund is adequately resourced and to provide information on the status of the trust fund;

22. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to include least developed country issues in all relevant reports in the economic, social and related fields in order to ensure follow-up to their development in the broader context of the world economy and contribute to preventing their marginalization while promoting their further integration into the world economy;

23. *Recalls* paragraph 114 of the Programme of Action on holding a fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries towards the end of the

current decade, and notes the steps being undertaken in this regard, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 62/203;

24. *Requests* the Secretary-General to step up appropriate measures for the implementation of the advocacy strategy on the effective and timely implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010,[165] in coordination with all relevant stakeholders;

25. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to submit an analytical and results-oriented annual progress report on the further implementation of the Programme of Action and to make available adequate resources, within existing resources, for the preparation of such a report.

45th plenary meeting
25 July 2008

[165] A/62/322.

Decisions

2008/201 E
Elections, nominations, confirmations and appointments to subsidiary and related bodies of the Economic and Social Council

At its 29th and 32nd plenary meetings, on 11 and 16 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council took the following action with regard to vacancies in its subsidiary and related bodies:

Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

The Council elected Eugenio A. **Insigne** (Philippines) to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues for a term beginning on 1 January 2009 and expiring on 31 December 2010, to fill a vacancy arising from the resignation of Xiaomei **Qin** (China).

Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission

The Council decided to further extend the terms of office of the following Council members elected to the Organizational Committee of the Peacebuilding Commission to 31 December 2008: **Angola, Brazil, Czech Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Luxembourg** and **Sri Lanka**.

Elections postponed from a previous session

Commission for Social Development

The Council elected **Gabon** for a term beginning at the first meeting (held in 2009) of the forty-eighth session of the Commission for Social Development and expiring at the close of its fifty-first session in 2013.

The Council further postponed the election of one member from Eastern European States and two members from Latin American and Caribbean States for a four-year term beginning at the first meeting (held in 2009) of the Commission's forty-eighth session and expiring at the close of its fifty-first session in 2013.

Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

The Council elected the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development

The Council elected the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **Equatorial Guinea** for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

The Council further postponed the election of one member from Latin American and Caribbean States and two members from Western European and other States for a four-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

Programme Coordinating Board of the Joint United Nations Programme on Human Immunodeficiency Virus/Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome (UNAIDS)

The Council elected the **Congo** for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

Nomination postponed from a previous session

Committee for Programme and Coordination

The Council nominated the **Central African Republic** for election by the General Assembly for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

The Council further postponed the nomination of three members from Western European and other States for election by the General Assembly for a three-year term beginning on 1 January 2009.

2008/214
Agenda and organization of work for the substantive session of 2008 of the Economic and Social Council

At its 12th plenary meeting, on 30 June 2008, the Economic and Social Council adopted the agenda for its substantive session of 2008[1] and approved the programme of work of the session.[2] At the same meeting, on the recommendation of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations, the Council also approved the requests made by non-governmental organizations to be heard by the Council at its substantive session of 2008 under agenda item 2.

2008/215
Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the operational activities of the United Nations for international development cooperation

At its 34th plenary meeting, on 18 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Development Programme/United Nations Population Fund on its work during 2007;[3]

(b) Report of the Executive Board of the World Food Programme on the first and second regular sessions and annual session of 2007;[4]

(c) Report of the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme and the Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund;[5]

---

[1] E/2008/100.
[2] E/2008/L.5.
[3] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council 2007, Supplement No. 15* (E/2007/35).
[4] Ibid., *2008, Supplement No. 16* (E/2008/36).
[5] E/2008/5.

(d) Annual report of the United Nations Children's Fund to the Economic and Social Council;[6]

(e) Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the annual report of the Executive Director of the World Food Programme for 2007;[7]

(f) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the work of its 2008 first regular session (29 January-1 February 2008);[8]

(g) Addendum to the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on the work of its 2008 first regular session (29 January-1 February 2008): joint meeting of the Executive Boards of UNDP/UNFPA, UNICEF and WFP;[9]

(h) Extract from the report of the Executive Board of the United Nations Children's Fund on its 2008 annual session (3-5 June 2008);[10]

(i) Actions taken by the executive boards and Governing Bodies of the United Nations funds, programmes and specialized agencies in the area of simplifications and harmonization of the United Nations development system.[11]

2008/216
Document considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels

At its 34th plenary meeting, on 18 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels,[12] which related to the role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2007 of the Council (agenda item 4) and economic and environmental questions: science and technology for development (agenda item 13 (b)).

2008/217
Participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions

At its 34th plenary meeting, on 18 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006 and its decision 2007/215

[6] E/2008/6-E/ICEF/2008/3 and Corr.1.
[7] E/2008/14.
[8] E/2008/34 (Part I)-E/ICEF/2008/7 (Part I).
[9] E/2008/34 (Part I)/Add.1-E/ICEF/2008/7 (Part I)/Add.1.
[10] E/2008/L.8.
[11] E/2008/CRP.4.
[12] A/63/72-E/2008/48.

of 26 April 2007, and recognizing the need for maximizing the meaningful participation of and contributions by civil society and business entities in the work of the Commission:

(a) Decided, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the established rules of procedure of the functional commissions of the Economic and Social Council, to extend to non-governmental organizations and civil society entities that were not in consultative status with the Council but that had received accreditation to the World Summit on the Information Society, an invitation to participate in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development, at its twelfth and thirteenth sessions;

(b) Urged voluntary contributions in order to provide the maximum possible assistance for the participation of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities of developing countries and to ensure their balanced representation, including in the panels of the Commission;

(c) Invited the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations to consider as expeditiously as possible the applications of such entities, in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council.

2008/218
Participation of academic entities in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development

At its 34th plenary meeting, on 18 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council, recalling paragraphs 14 to 16 of its resolution 2006/46 of 28 July 2006, entitled "Follow-up to the World Summit on the Information Society and review of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development", recognizing that academic entities that had been accredited to the World Summit on the Information Society under the category of non-governmental organizations and civil society entities could not be granted consultative status with the Council in accordance with its resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996 and that their participation in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in accordance with Council decision 2007/215 of 26 April 2007 was therefore limited to the tenth and eleventh sessions of the Commission, and recognizing also that those academic entities were important stakeholders in the information society and made an important contribution to the achievement of the goals and objectives of the World Summit on the Information Society and its follow-up:

(a) Decided, on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to existing rules of procedure, that academic entities accredited to the World Summit on the Information Society might participate in the work of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council;

(b) Requested the secretariat of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development to submit to the Economic and Social Council for its consideration and approval in a timely manner the names of academic entities, including academies of science and engineering, that had not been accredited to the World Summit on the Information Society and that had expressed or were expressing the wish to participate in the work of the Commission, with a view to enabling them to

participate, on an exceptional basis, in the work of the Commission in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council;

(c) Emphasized that the present decision had been taken on an exceptional basis and without prejudice to the established rules of procedure of the Economic and Social Council, in particular the provisions of Council resolution 1996/31 concerning the accreditation and participation of non-governmental organizations and other major groups in the work of the Council and its subsidiary bodies, and that it should not be construed as creating a precedent;

(d) Decided to review in 2010 the list of academic entities and the modalities for their participation in the work of the Commission.

2008/219
Report of the Secretary-General on science, technology and innovation to be submitted to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twelfth session

At its 34th plenary meeting, on 18 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council requested the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on Science and Technology for Development at its twelfth session on the science, technology and innovation priority themes addressed during the current biennium.

2008/220
Report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session and provisional agenda and documentation for the twelfth session of the Commission

At its 34th plenary meeting, on 18 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the Commission on Science and Technology for Development on its eleventh session;[13]

(b) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the twelfth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the twelfth session of the Commission

1. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
2. Progress made in the implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the World Summit on the Information Society at the regional and international levels.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General
3. Priority themes:

[13] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 11* (E/2008/31).

(a) Development-oriented policies for a socio-economically inclusive information society, including access, infrastructure and an enabling environment;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Science, technology and engineering for innovation and capacity-building in education and research;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(c) Presentation of reports on science, technology and innovative policy reviews.

4. Implementation of and progress made on decisions taken by the Commission at its eleventh session.

5. Election of the Chair and other officers for the thirteenth session of the Commission.

6. Provisional agenda and documentation for the thirteenth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its twelfth session.

2008/221
Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with coordination and programme questions

At its 36th plenary meeting, on 21 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2007/08;[14]

(b) Report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on its forty-eighth session.[15]

2008/222
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

At its 37th plenary meeting, on 21 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided:

(a) To grant consultative status to the following seventy non-governmental organizations:

[14] E/2008/58.

[15] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/63/16).

Special consultative status

Action pour le développement de l'agriculture et de la pêche avec protection environnementale de Likende

Advisory Network for African Information Society

Africa Humanitarian Action

Agence de développement économique et culturel nord-sud

Assemblea delle Donne per lo Sviluppo e la Lotta Contro L'Esclusione Sociale

Association Cœur Africain

Association "Les enfants de Frankie"

Baltic Sea Forum

Batani International Development Fund for Indigenous Peoples of the North, Siberia and the Far East of the Russian Federation

Bharat Sevashram Sangha

Black Sea Civil Society Solidarity Association

Carter Center

Center for Egyptian Women's Legal Assistance Foundation

Centre for European Constitutional Law

Centre independent de recherches et d'initiatives pour le dialogue

Children International

Chintan Environmental Research and Action Group

Civil Resource Development and Documentation Centre

Colonie des pionniers de développement

Council on Health Research for Development

Environic Foundation International

Federation of Environmental and Ecological Diversity for Agricultural Revampment and Human Rights

Federation of Jain Associations in North America

Foundation for Human Rights Initiative

Fundação de Assistência Médica Internacional

Fundación Guayasamín

Fundación para la Libertad

Geneva Infant Feeding Association

Geneva Social Observatory

Global Workers Justice Alliance

God's Harvest Foundation

Grupo Ecologico Sierra Gorda

Hunter College Center for Community and Urban Health

Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology

International Paralympic Committee

Mountain Women Development Organization

New Future Foundation

Nigerian Army Officers' Wives Association

Nigeria-Togo Association

Okedongmu Children in Korea

Ordre des avocats de Paris

Organisation pour la communication en Afrique et de promotion de la coopération économique internationale

Peace Parks Foundation

People to People

Physicians for Peace

Pos Keadilan Peduli Umat

Rehabilitation and Research Centre for Torture Victims

Roma Centre for Social Intervention and Studies

Rural Africa Water Development Project

Santé de la reproduction pour une maternité sans risque

School of Human Genetics and Population Health

Social Action Forum for Manav Adhikar

Society for the Protection and Assistance of the Socially Disadvantaged Individuals

Stree Atyachar Virodhi Parishad

SustainUS

Talented Girl Students Trust

Women in Development and Environment (Nigeria)

Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management

Women's Association for a Better Aging Society

Women's General Association of Macau

World of Hope International

Youth of JAZAS

Roster

Asia Darshana

Association pour le développement du Dja

Beckley Foundation

Business Humanitarian Forum

Collaborative Labeling and Appliance Standards Program

Fundació Futbol Club Barcelona

International Osteoporosis Foundation

Iranian Society of Engineering Design and Assembly

(b) To reclassify the following non-governmental organizations from the Roster to special consultative status:

Foundation for Subjective Experience and Research

Yachay Wasi

(c) To note that the Committee had taken note of the quadrennial reports of the following fifty-three non-governmental organizations:

(i) For the reporting period 2003-2006:

Academy for Future Science

Akina Mama wa Afrika

All India Women's Education Fund Association

Arab Lawyers Union

Asociación Cubana de las Naciones Unidas

Associated Country Women of the World

Association pour le développement économique, social, environnemental du nord

Australian Council for International Development

Bangladesh Nari Progati Sangha

Center for International Earth Science Information Network

Centre on Housing Rights and Evictions

Chinese Association for International Understanding

Congregations of St. Joseph

Earthjustice

Federation for Women and Family Planning

FEMVision

Forum for Women and Development

Girl Scouts of the United States of America

Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society

Human Relief Foundation

Human Rights Defence Centre

Human Rights Information and Documentation Systems International

Initiatives: Women in Development

International Association for Religious Freedom

International Bureau for Children's Rights

International Confederation for Family Support

International Federation for Hydrocephalus and Spina Bifida

International Federation of Business and Professional Women

International Fellowship of Reconciliation

International Institute for the Rights of the Child

International Islamic Committee for Woman and Child

International Kolping Society

International Multiracial Shared Cultural Organization

International Social Service

International Volunteerism Organization for Women, Education and Development

Japan Fellowship of Reconciliation

Mandat International

Millennium Institute

National Alliance of Women's Organizations

National Women's Council of Catalonia

New Japan Women's Association

New York County Lawyers' Association

Order of St. John

Prison Fellowship International

Rural Women Environmental Protection Association

Shimin Gaikou Centre

Simon Wiesenthal Center

United States Committee for UNIFEM

World Blind Union

(ii) For the reporting period 2002-2005:

Korean Federation for Environmental Movement

Organization for Defending Victims of Violence

People's Decade of Human Rights Education

Union nationale de la femme tunisienne

(d) To also note that the Committee had decided to close without prejudice consideration of the request for consultative status made by the following non-governmental organizations:

Association Sahel solidarité action

Foundation for Research and Support of the Indigenous Peoples of Crimea

(e) To further note that the Committee had decided to take note of the withdrawal by the following three organizations of their applications for consultative status:

Center for Conflict Resolution

International Crisis Group

Kurdish Human Rights Project

2008/223
Application of American Sports Committee

At its 37th plenary meeting, on 21 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided not to grant consultative status to the non-governmental organization American Sports Committee.

2008/224
Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2008 regular session

At its 37th plenary meeting, on 21 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2008 regular session.[16]

2008/225
Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations

At its 37th plenary meeting, on 21 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided:

(a) To grant consultative status to the following sixty-four non-governmental organizations:

[16] E/2008/32 (Part I).

General consultative status

China NGO Network for International Exchanges

Special consultative status

African Child Care Association

Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development

All About Social, Economic, Educational Rights

Al-Zubair Charity Foundation

American Association of University Women

Asociación Mujeres Unidas para el Microcrédito

Association d'équipements collectifs La Castellane

Association VERSeau Développement

CARAM Asia Berhad

Centro de Información y Educación para la Prevención del Abuso de Drogas

Cercle de recherche sur les droits et les devoirs de la personne humaine

Child Family Health International

Comité pour les relations internationales de jeunesse de la communauté française de Belgique

Federatie van Nederlandse Verenigingen tot Integratie van Homoseksualiteit

Fondation connaissance et liberté

Fondation Ostad Elahi

Foundation for a Culture of Peace

Fundación Instituto Psicopedagógico Uruguayo

Fundación Paz Mundial

Fund for Women in Asia

General Research Institute for the Convention on the Rights of the Child

Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition

Global Hand

Globe Aware

Health for Humanity

Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society

Hudson Institute

Institut international des sciences politiques

Instituto internazionale Maria Ausiliatrice

International Centre for Missing and Exploited Children

IT for Change

Junior Achievement Worldwide

Knights of the Southern Cross

Learning and Development Kenya

Mother Child Education Foundation

National Women's Studies Association

Network of NGOs of Trinidad and Tobago for the Advancement of Women

Partnership for Global Justice

Plateforme pour le développement durable des Caraïbes

Red Venezolana de Organizaciones para el Desarrollo Social

Rural Litigation and Entitlement Kendra

Service for Peace

Ship and Ocean Foundation

Smile of the Child

Society Studies Centre

Vikash

Vluchtelingen Werk Nederland

Voices of African Mothers

Women and Modern World Centre

Women's Health and Education Center

Women's Rights Association against Discrimination

Women's Shadow Parliament (Kenya)

Roster

Center for Health and Gender Equity

Comitato Ev-K[2]

Kabbalah Centre

Ligue pour le droit de la femme congolaise

National Federation of Business and Professional Women's Clubs

New Zealand Council of Licensed Firearms Owners

Nigerian Healthcare Foundation

NTIC et citoyenneté

Play Soccer

Trance Research Foundation

Village Suisse

(b) To reclassify the following non-governmental organization from the Roster to special consultative status:

International Association for Media and Communication Research

(c) To note that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had taken note of the quadrennial reports of the following one hundred and twenty-six non-governmental organizations (years of reporting are 2003-2006, unless otherwise indicated in parentheses):

Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences

All China Women's Federation

All-Russian Social Fund

Antiviolence Center

Association algérienne d'alphabétisation

Association for Democratic Initiatives

Association for Progressive Communications

Association of Medical Doctors of Asia

Association of United Families International

Buddha's Light International Association

CARE International

Centre d'accompagnement des autochtones pygmées et minoritaires vulnérables

Centre for Democracy and Development

Cercle des amis de la forêt pour le 21e siècle

Citizens' Rights Protection Society

Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations

Coordination des immigrés du sud du monde

Defence for Children International

Disabled Peoples' International

European Disability Forum

European Forum for Victim Services

European Youth Forum

Family Planning Association of Turkey

Federación de Asociaciones de Defensa y Promoción de los Derechos Humanos (2000-2003)

Fédération de Tunis de solidarité sociale

Federation of Associations of Former Civil Servants

Focus on the Family

Fondation Guilé

Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt Institute (2002-2005)

Fund of Aid for Youth

German Foundation for World Population

Global Action on Aging

Global Fund for Women

Global Volunteers

Green Earth Organization

Handicap International

Hariri Foundation

HelpAge International

Himalayan Research and Cultural Foundation

Hong Kong Council of Social Service

Human Appeal International

Institut international des sciences administratives

Institute for Global Environmental Strategies

Interaction — American Council for Voluntary International Action

Interact Worldwide

International Alert

International Association for the Defence of Religious Liberty

International Association for Water Law

International Association of Charities

International Association of Peace Messenger Cities

International Bar Association

International Cartographic Association

International Centre for Human Rights and Democratic Development

International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development

International Chamber of Shipping

International Commission on Distance Education

International Council of Scientific Unions

International Council of Women

International Council on Human Rights Policy

International Council on Mining and Metals

International Driving Tests Committee

International Federation for Family Development

International Federation for Housing and Planning

International Federation of ACAT

International Federation of Agricultural Producers

International Federation of Associations of the Elderly

International Federation of Medical Students' Associations

International Federation of Persons with Physical Disability

International Federation of University Women

International Federation Terre des Hommes

International League for the Rights and Liberation of Peoples (2001-2004)

International Longevity Center

International Movement ATD Fourth World

International Organization for Standardization

International Planned Parenthood Federation (Europe Region)

International Planned Parenthood Federation (Western Hemisphere Region)

International Road Federation

International Social Security Association

International Women's Health Coalition

Inter-Press Service International Association

Japan Civil Liberties Union

Japan Federation of Bar Associations

Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development

Kids Can Free the Children

Korean Institute for Women and Politics

Legião da Boa Vontade

Life Ethics Educational Association

Life for Relief and Development

Mercy-USA for Aid and Development

Movement for a Better World

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People

National Bar Association

National Council of Women of the United States

National Safety Council

National Wildlife Federation

Netherlands Organization for International Development Cooperation

Network Women in Development Europe

Nord-Sud XXI

Oasis Open City Foundation

Organization for Industrial, Spiritual and Cultural Advancement International

Organization of Islamic Capitals and Cities

Panamerican-Panafrican Association

Pathfinder International

Perhaps ... Kids Meeting Kids Can Make a Difference

Permanent Assembly for Human Rights

Program for Appropriate Technology in Health

Rencontre africaine pour la défense des droits de l'homme

Resources for the Future

RICS Foundation

Several Sources Foundation

Socialist International

Society for the Protection of Unborn Children

SOS-Kinderdorf International

Stichting Projekta — Foundation for Women and Development Services

Trickle Up Program

United Nations Association of San Diego

Wittenberg Center for Alternative Resources

Women's Commission Research and Education Fund

Women's World Summit Foundation

World Association of Children's Friends

World Economic Forum

World Federation of Democratic Youth

World Federation of United Nations Associations

World Organization of Building Officials

World Savings Banks Institute

Youth with a Mission

(d) To also note that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had decided to close its consideration of the request for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council made by the following non-governmental organizations:

Armenian Fund USA

Ma Qualcuno Pensi ad Abele

(e) To further note that the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations had decided to take note of the withdrawal by the following two organizations of their applications for consultative status:

Chinese Society for Corrosion and Protection

Observer Research Foundation

2008/226
Application of the non-governmental organization Human Rights Foundation for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

At its 37th plenary meeting, on 21 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided not to grant consultative status with the Council to the Human Rights Foundation.

2008/227
Complaint against the non-governmental organization World Union for Progressive Judaism

At its 37th plenary meeting, on 21 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided to dispose of the complaint against the non-governmental organization World Union for Progressive Judaism.

2008/228
Dates of and provisional agenda for the 2009 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

At its 37th plenary meeting, on 21 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Decided that the 2009 regular session of the Committee on Non Governmental Organizations would be held from 19 to 28 January 2009 and its resumed session from 18 to 27 May 2009;

(b) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the 2009 session of the Committee as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2009 session of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification received from non-governmental organizations:

(a) Applications for consultative status and requests for reclassification deferred from the previous sessions of the Committee;

(b) New applications for consultative status and new requests for reclassification;

(c) Applications of non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council that have merged with non-governmental organizations without such consultative status.

4. Quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Deferred quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council;

(b) Review of quadrennial reports submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Council.

5. Strengthening of the Non-Governmental Organizations Section of the Secretariat.

6. Review of the methods of work of the Committee: implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31, including the process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations, and Council decision 1995/304:

(a) Process of accreditation of representatives of non-governmental organizations;

(b) Consideration of issues in the agenda of the informal working group;

(c) Other related matters.

7. Implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2006/46.

8. Consideration of special reports.

9. General voluntary trust fund in support of the United Nations Non-Governmental Organizations Informal Regional Network.

10. Provisional agenda and documentation for the 2010 session of the Committee.

11. Adoption of the report of the Committee.

2008/229
Report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2008 session

At its 37th plenary meeting, on 21 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided to defer its consideration of the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its resumed 2008 session[17] to the resumed substantive session of the Council.

[17] E/2008/32 (Part II).

2008/230
Application of the non-governmental organization Federación Estatal de Lesbianas, Gays, Transexuales y Bisexuales

At its 38th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council, having considered the report of the Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations on its 2008 regular session[18] and draft decision II contained therein,[19] decided to grant special consultative status to Federación Estatal de Lesbianas, Gays, Transexuales y Bisexuales.

2008/231
Smoke-free United Nations premises

At its 39th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its resolution 2006/42 of 27 July 2006 on smoke-free United Nations premises, recommended that the General Assembly, at its sixty-third session, consider the recommendations set out in that resolution.

2008/232
Report of the Secretary-General on the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control

At its 39th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided to:

(a) Take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the progress made by the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control;[20]

(b) Request the Secretary-General to submit a report on the work of the Ad Hoc Inter-Agency Task Force on Tobacco Control to the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2010.

2008/233
Genetic privacy and non-discrimination

At its 39th plenary meeting, on 22 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council, recalling its decision 2007/269 of 27 July 2007 and taking note with appreciation of the report of the Secretary-General:[21]

(a) Decided to invite the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to consult with relevant United Nations entities on the implementation of and follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions 2001/39 of 26 July 2001 and 2004/9 of 21 July 2004, the

[18] E/2008/32 (Part I).
[19] Ibid., chap. I.B.
[20] E/2008/59.
[21] E/2008/51.

Universal Declaration on the Human Genome and Human Rights,[22] the International Declaration on Human Genetic Data,[23] the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights[24] and other norms and instruments adopted within the United Nations system that are relevant to genetic privacy and non-discrimination, and on a possible inter-agency coordination mechanism;

(b) Also decided to invite the Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization to report to the Economic and Social Council on relevant developments in the field of genetic privacy and non-discrimination at its substantive session of 2010 and on a possible inter-agency coordination mechanism, in consultation with and taking into account the views of Member States.

2008/234
Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with regional cooperation

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council took note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on regional cooperation in the economic, social and related fields;[25]

(b) The economic situation in the Economic Commission for Europe region: Europe, North America and the Commonwealth of Independent States in 2007-2008;[26]

(c) Overview of the economic and social conditions in Africa 2008;[27]

(d) Summary of the Economic and Social Survey of Asia and the Pacific 2008;[28]

(e) Latin America and the Caribbean: economic situation and outlook, 2007-2008;[29]

(f) Summary of the survey of economic and social developments in the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia region, 2007-2008.[30]

---

[22] United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, *Records of the General Conference, Twenty-ninth Session, Paris, 21 October-12 November 1997*, vol. I: *Resolutions*, chap. III, resolution 16.

[23] Ibid., *Thirty-second Session, Paris, 29 September-17 October 2003*, vol. I: *Resolutions*, chap. IV, resolution 22.

[24] Ibid., *Thirty-third Session, Paris, 3-21 October 2005*, vol. I: *Resolutions*, chap. V, resolution 36.

[25] E/2008/15 and Add.1 and 2.

[26] E/2008/16.

[27] E/2008/17.

[28] E/2008/18.

[29] E/2008/19.

[30] E/2008/19.

2008/235
Agreed conclusions on financing gender equality and the empowerment of women

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided to transmit the following agreed conclusions adopted by the Commission on the Status of Women at its fifty-second session to the General Assembly as an input into the preparations for and outcome of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Doha from 29 November to 2 December 2008:

1. The Commission on the Status of Women reaffirms the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, which emphasized the need for political commitment to make available human and financial resources for the empowerment of women and that funding had to be identified and mobilized from all sources and across all sectors to achieve the goals of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, which called upon Governments to incorporate a gender perspective into the design, development, adoption and execution of all policies and budgetary processes, as appropriate, in order to promote equitable, effective and appropriate resource allocation and establish adequate budgetary allocations to support gender equality and development programmes that enhance women's empowerment.

2. The Commission reaffirms the declaration adopted on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women, which stressed that challenges and obstacles remained in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome documents of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, and pledged to take further action to ensure their full and accelerated implementation.

3. The Commission recalls the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development held in Monterrey, Mexico, in 2002, which affirms, inter alia, that a holistic approach to the interconnected national, international and systemic challenges of financing for development — sustainable, gender-sensitive, people-centred development — in all parts of the globe is essential.

4. The Commission also recalls the 2005 World Summit and reaffirms that the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, the International Conference on Population and Development and other relevant United Nations summits and conferences is an essential contribution to the achievement of the internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the United Nations Millennium Declaration, in particular, on the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women.

5. The Commission reaffirms the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and takes note of the work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women towards the

practical realization of the principle of equality between women and men and between girls and boys.

6. The Commission also reaffirms that States have primary responsibility for promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls and that gender mainstreaming and national machineries are necessary and play a critical role in the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and that, in order for national machineries to be effective, a strong institutional framework with clear mandates, location at the highest possible level, accountability mechanisms, partnership with civil society, a transparent political process, adequate financial and human resources and continued strong political commitment are crucial.

7. The Commission recalls that the Platform for Action recognizes that its implementation requires adequate financial resources committed at the national and international levels and that strengthening national capacities in developing countries in this regard requires striving for the fulfilment of the agreed targets of overall official development assistance from developed countries as soon as possible. The Commission recognizes the importance of the full utilization of all sources of development finance.

8. The Commission also recognizes the importance of gender mainstreaming as a tool for achieving gender equality and, to that end, the need to promote the mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of policies and programmes in all political, economic and social spheres and to strengthen the capabilities of the United Nations system in the area of gender.

9. The Commission reaffirms that gender equality and the promotion and protection of the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all are essential for advancing development, peace and security, and stresses that peace is inextricably linked to equality between women and men and to development.

10. The Commission reaffirms that the promotion and protection of, and respect for, the human rights and fundamental freedoms of women, including the right to development, which are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated, should be mainstreamed into all policies and programmes aimed at the eradication of poverty, and also reaffirms the need to take measures to ensure that every person is entitled to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development.

11. The Commission notes the growing body of evidence demonstrating that investing in women and girls has a multiplier effect on productivity, efficiency and sustained economic growth and that increasing women's economic empowerment is central to the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals and to the eradication of poverty, and recognizes that adequate resources need to be allocated at all levels, mechanisms and capacities need to be strengthened and gender-responsive policies need to be enhanced to fully utilize the multiplier effect.

12. The Commission reaffirms the goals aimed at reducing maternal and child mortality, combating HIV/AIDS and improving maternal health by 2015, as contained in the Millennium Development Goals, as well as the goal of

achieving universal access to reproductive health, as set out at the International Conference on Population and Development, which are critical to the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

13. The Commission recalls the recognition in the Beijing Platform for Action of the role of the United Nations, including funds and programmes and specialized agencies, in particular the special roles of the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women (INSTRAW), within their respective mandates, and recognizes the role of the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women, as part of the United Nations system, in the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women and therefore in the implementation of the Platform for Action.

14. The Commission also recalls that the Bretton Woods institutions, other financial institutions and the private sector also have an important role to play in ensuring that financing for development promotes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

15. The Commission recognizes the importance of non-governmental organizations, as well as other civil society actors, in advancing the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

16. The Commission is concerned that insufficient political commitment and budgetary resources pose obstacles to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment and continue to undermine the effectiveness and sustainability of both national mechanisms for the advancement of women and women's organizations in advocating for, implementing, supporting and monitoring the effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcome of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly.

17. The Commission is concerned about the growing feminization of poverty and reiterates that eradicating poverty is the greatest global challenge facing the world today, and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, in particular for developing countries, including the least developed countries. In this regard, the Commission stresses that achieving the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development goals is a global effort that requires investing sufficient resources for gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

18. The Commission remains concerned about the lingering negative consequences, including for women, of structural adjustment programmes, stemming from inappropriate design and application.

19. The Commission expresses its concern about the underresourcing in the area of gender equality in the United Nations system, including at the United Nations Development Fund for Women and the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women, the Office of the Special Adviser on Gender Issues and Advancement of Women and the Division for the Advancement of Women, and stresses the need for more effective tracking of resources allocated to and spent on enhancing gender equality and the empowerment of women across the United Nations system, including on gender mainstreaming.

20. The Commission states that the global commitments for the achievement of gender equality and empowerment of women since the Fourth World Conference on Women, including through the Monterrey Consensus, have yet to be fully implemented.

21. The Commission urges Governments and/or, as appropriate, the relevant funds, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations system, within their respective mandates, and invites the international financial institutions, civil society, non-governmental organizations and the private sector, bearing in mind national priorities, to take the following actions:

(a) Increase the investment in gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, taking into account the diversity of needs and circumstances of women and girls, including through mainstreaming a gender perspective in resource allocation and ensuring the necessary human, financial and material resources for specific and targeted activities to ensure gender equality at the local, national, regional and international levels, as well as through enhanced and increased international cooperation;

(b) Ensure that sufficient resources are allocated for activities targeting the elimination of persistent obstacles to gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls in all critical areas of concern of the Platform for Action;

(c) Design and strengthen poverty eradication strategies, with the full and effective participation of women, that reduce the feminization of poverty and enhance the capacity of women and empower them to meet the challenge presented by the negative social and economic impacts of globalization;

(d) Create an environment in which women and girls can fully share the benefits of the opportunities offered by globalization;

(e) Integrate a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation and reporting of all national economic policies, strategies and plans, in a coordinated manner across all policy areas, including in national development, social protection and poverty reduction strategies, and involve national mechanisms for the advancement of women and women's organizations in the design and development of such policies, strategies and plans with the goal of achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(f) Incorporate gender perspectives into all economic policymaking and increase the participation of women in economic governance structures and processes in order to ensure policy coherence and adequate resources for gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(g) Give priority to assisting the efforts of developing countries, including the least developed countries, in ensuring the full and effective participation of women in deciding and implementing development strategies and integrating gender concerns into national programmes, including by providing adequate resources to operational activities for development in support of the efforts to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(h) Remove barriers and allocate adequate resources to enable the full representation and full and equal participation of women in political, social and economic decision-making and in administrative entities, in particular those responsible for economic and public finance policies, in order to guarantee the full and equal participation of women in the formulation of all plans, programmes and policies;

(i) Strengthen the capacities and mandates of institutional frameworks and accountability mechanisms, including of national machineries for the advancement of women, and ensure that they are continuously and adequately resourced and given the authority necessary to carry out their critical role in advocating for, supporting, monitoring and evaluating the integration of gender perspectives in all policy areas and the implementation of gender equality plans, programmes and legislation;

(j) Strengthen a coordinated and institutionalized dialogue among national mechanisms for the advancement of women, relevant governmental agencies and entities, including ministries of finance and planning and their gender focal points, and women's organizations in order to ensure the integration of gender perspectives into all national development policies, plans and budgets;

(k) Cost and adequately resource national policies, programmes, strategies and plans for gender equality and the empowerment of women, including gender mainstreaming and affirmative action strategies, and ensure that they are incorporated into overall national development strategies and reflected in relevant sector plans and budgets, to fulfil international and regional commitments for gender equality, including Millennium Development Goal 3;

(l) Allocate resources for capacity development in gender mainstreaming in all ministries, particularly within national women's machineries and finance ministries and, as appropriate, local authorities, in order to ensure that domestic resource mobilization and allocation are carried out in a gender-responsive manner, and reinforce national efforts in capacity-building in social and gender budget policies;

(m) Improve, systematize and fund the collection, analysis and dissemination of sex-disaggregated and gender-related data, including data disaggregated by age and other factors and data on women's contribution to the care economy, and develop necessary input, output and outcome indicators at all levels to measure progress in financing gender equality and the empowerment of women, in particular in introducing and implementing gender-responsive approaches to public finance;

(n) Undertake and disseminate gender analysis of policies and programmes related to macroeconomic stability, structural adjustment, external debt problems, taxation, investments, employment, markets and all relevant sectors of the economy, and support and facilitate research in those areas, with a view to achieving the objectives of the Platform for Action and with respect to their impact on poverty, on inequality and particularly on women, as well as to assess their impact on family well-being and conditions and adjust them, as

appropriate, to promote more equitable distribution of productive assets, wealth, opportunities, income and services;

(o) Carry out gender-sensitive analysis of revenues and expenditures in all policy areas and take into account the review and evaluation results in budget planning, allocation and revenue-raising in order to enhance the contribution of Government expenditures to accelerating the full and effective implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action;

(p) Develop and implement, where appropriate, methodologies and tools, including national indicators, for gender-responsive planning and budgeting in order to systematically incorporate gender perspectives into budgetary policies at all levels, with a view to promoting gender equality in all policy areas;

(q) Urge developed countries that have not yet done so, in accordance with their commitments, to make concrete efforts towards meeting the target of 0.7 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of their gross national product for official development assistance to least developed countries, and encourage developing countries to build on the progress achieved in ensuring that official development assistance is used effectively to help meet development goals and targets and, inter alia, to assist them in achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(r) Ensure the effective and equitable participation of developing countries in the formulation of financial standards and codes, with a view to achieving the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of women;

(s) Strengthen the focus and impact of development assistance, specifically targeting gender equality and empowerment of women and girls, in line with national development priorities, through both gender mainstreaming and funding of targeted activities and enhanced dialogue on those issues between donors and developing countries, and strengthen mechanisms to effectively measure resources allocated to incorporating gender perspectives in all sectors and thematic areas of development assistance;

(t) Encourage the integration of gender perspectives in aid modalities and efforts to enhance aid delivery mechanisms;

(u) Identify and implement development-oriented and durable solutions that integrate a gender perspective into the external debt and debt-servicing problems of developing countries, including least developed countries, inter alia, through debt relief, including the option of debt cancellation under official development assistance, in order to help them to finance programmes and projects targeted at development, including the advancement of women;

(v) Encourage international financial institutions to continue to take gender perspectives into account in the design of loans, grants, projects, programmes and strategies;

(w) Identify and address the differential impact of trade policies on women and men and incorporate gender perspectives in the formulation, implementation and evaluation of trade policies, develop strategies to expand trade opportunities for women producers and facilitate the active participation

of women in national, regional and international trade decision-making structures and processes;

(x) Undertake gender-sensitive assessments of national labour laws, policies and programmes and establish gender-sensitive policies and guidelines for employment practices, including those of transnational corporations, building on appropriate multilateral instruments, including the conventions of the International Labour Organization;

(y) Allocate adequate resources for the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women in the workplace, including unequal access to labour-market participation and wage inequalities, as well as reconciliation of work and private life for both women and men;

(z) Establish and fund active labour-market policies devoted to the promotion of full and productive employment and decent work for all, including the full participation of women in all international and national development and poverty eradication strategies, the creation of more and better jobs for women, both urban and rural, and their inclusion in social protection and social dialogue;

(aa) Take measures to develop, finance, implement, monitor and evaluate gender-responsive policies and programmes aimed at promoting women's entrepreneurship and private initiative, including through microfinance, microcredit and cooperatives, and assist women-owned businesses in participating in and benefiting from, inter alia, international trade, technological innovation and transfer, investment and knowledge and skills training;

(bb) Fully maximize the role of and ensure access to microfinance tools, including microcredit for poverty eradication, for employment generation and, especially, for the empowerment of women, encourage the strengthening of existing and emerging microcredit institutions and their capacities, including through the support of international financial institutions, and ensure that best practices are widely disseminated;

(cc) Undertake legislative and administrative reforms to give women full and equal access to economic resources, including the right to inheritance and to ownership of land and other property, credit, natural resources and appropriate technologies;

(dd) Take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women and increase their access to and control over bank loans, mortgages and other forms of financial credit, giving special attention to poor, uneducated women; support women's access to legal assistance; encourage the financial sector to mainstream gender perspectives in its policies and programmes; ensure women's full and equal access to training and productive resources and social protection; and facilitate equal access of women, particularly women in developing and least developed countries, to markets at all levels;

(ee) Strengthen education, health, and social services and effectively utilize resources to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of women and ensure women's and girls' rights to education at all levels and the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health,

including sexual and reproductive health, as well as quality, affordable and universally accessible health care and services, in particular primary health care;

(ff) Address the overall expansion and feminization of the HIV/AIDS pandemic, taking into account that women and girls bear a disproportionate share of the burden imposed by the HIV/AIDS crisis, that they are more easily infected, that they play a key role in care and that they have become more vulnerable to violence, stigma and discrimination, poverty and marginalization from their families and communities as a result of the HIV/AIDS crisis, and, in that regard, significantly scale up efforts towards the goal of achieving universal access to comprehensive prevention programmes, treatment, care and support by 2010 and ensure that those efforts integrate and promote gender equality;

(gg) Ensure adequate financing for women's full, equal and effective participation at all levels in conflict prevention, management and resolution, peace negotiations and peacebuilding, including adequate national and international funding to ensure proper access to disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and other relevant programmes for women and girls;

(hh) Reduce excessive military expenditures, including global military expenditures, trade in arms and investment for arms production and acquisition, taking into consideration national security requirements, in order to permit the possible allocation of additional funds for social and economic development, including for gender equality and the advancement of women;

(ii) Ensure that adequate resources are allocated for activities targeting persistent serious obstacles to the advancement of women in situations of armed conflict and in conflicts of other types, wars of aggression, foreign occupation, and colonial or other alien domination as well as terrorism;

(jj) Integrate a gender perspective into the design, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting of national environmental policies, strengthen mechanisms and provide adequate resources to ensure women's full and equal participation in decision-making at all levels on environmental issues, in particular on strategies related to the impact of climate change on the lives of women and girls;

(kk) Strengthen coordination, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency in the United Nations system for the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of women, including through more effective mainstreaming in all aspects and enhancing its capacity to effectively assist States, at their request, in implementing their programmes on gender equality and the empowerment of women and, to that end, make adequate and reliable human and financial resources available;

(ll) Create and enhance a supportive environment for the mobilization of resources by non-governmental organizations, in particular women's organizations and networks, to enable them to increase their effectiveness and to contribute to gender equality and the empowerment of women, including through assisting in the implementation of the Platform for Action and participating in policy processes and programme delivery;

(mm) Provide assistance to States parties to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, upon their request, to support the implementation of the obligations of States parties under the Convention.

22. The Commission invites the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women to continue to give, while exercising its mandated functions, due consideration to financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women in its work.

23. The Commission requests Member States, with a view to strengthening financing for gender equality and the empowerment of women, to integrate gender perspectives in the preparations for and outcome of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus, to be held in Qatar in 2008.

2008/236
Report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-second session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-third session of the Commission

At its 40th plenary meeting, on 23 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on the Status of Women on its fifty-second session[31] and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-third session of the Commission set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Annotated provisional agenda and proposed organization of work of the Commission on the Status of Women

3. Follow-up to the Fourth World Conference on Women and to the special session of the General Assembly entitled "Women 2000: gender equality, development and peace for the twenty-first century":

(a) Implementation of strategic objectives and action in critical areas of concern, and further actions and initiatives;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the equal sharing of responsibilities between women and men, including caregiving in the context of HIV/AIDS

(b) Emerging issues, trends and new approaches to issues affecting the situation of women or equality between women and men;

[31] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 7* (E/2008/27).

(c) Gender mainstreaming, situations and programmatic matters.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on progress in mainstreaming a gender perspective in the development, implementation and evaluation of national policies and programmes, with a particular focus on the priority theme

Report of the Secretary-General on the situation of, and assistance to, Palestinian women

Report of the Secretary-General on women, the girl child and HIV/AIDS

Report of the Secretary-General on the joint workplan of the Division for the Advancement of Women and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Strengthening of the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the United Nations Development Fund for Women on the activities of the Fund to eliminate violence against women

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the outcome of the forty-third session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

4. Communications concerning the status of women.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the list of confidential communications concerning the status of women

Report of the Secretary-General on the future work of the Working Group

5. Follow-up to Economic and Social Council resolutions and decisions.

Documentation

Letter from the President of the Economic and Social Council to the Chairperson of the Commission on the Status of Women

Note by the Secretariat as input to the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2009 of the Economic and Social Council

6. Provisional agenda for the fifty-fourth session of the Commission.

7. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-third session.

2008/237
Report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its sixteenth session and provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission

At its 41st plenary meeting, on 23 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Sustainable Development on its

sixteenth session[32] and approved the provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda for the seventeenth session of the Commission on Sustainable Development

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Thematic cluster for the implementation cycle 2008-2009 (policy session):
   (a) Agriculture;
   (b) Rural development;
   (c) Land;
   (d) Drought;
   (e) Desertification;
   (f) Africa.
4. Provisional agenda for the eighteenth session of the Commission.
5. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its seventeenth session.

2008/238
Report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-ninth session and provisional agenda and dates for the fortieth session of the Commission

At its 41st plenary meeting, on 23 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the Statistical Commission on its thirty-ninth session;[33]

(b) Decided that the fortieth session of the Commission should be held in New York from 24 to 27 February 2009;

(c) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the fortieth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fortieth session of the Statistical Commission

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Provisional agenda and annotations

[32] Ibid., *Supplement No. 9* (E/2008/29).
[33] Ibid., *Supplement No. 4* (E/2008/24).

Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

Note by the Secretariat on the state of preparation of documentation for the session

3. Programme review: climate change and official statistics.

Documentation

Report of the programme reviewer

4. Demographic and social statistics:

(a) Population and housing censuses;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Human settlements statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

(c) Paris Group on Labour and Compensation;

Documentation

Report of the Paris Group on Labour and Compensation

(d) Health statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Health Statistics

(e) Social statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(f) Education statistics;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

(g) Statistics on drugs and drug use;

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

(h) Washington Group on Disability Measurement;

Documentation

Report of the Washington Group on Disability Measurement

(i) Migration statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(j) Employment statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(k) Gender statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the Global Gender Statistics Programme

Report of the Friends of the Chair on the review of indicators on violence against women

(l) Culture statistics.

Documentation

Report of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

5. Economic statistics:

(a) National accounts;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on National Accounts

(b) Agricultural statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(c) Business registers;

Documentation

Report of the Wiesbaden Group on Business Registers

(d) Energy statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Oslo Group on Energy Statistics

(e) Statistics of services;

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Services Statistics

Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics

(f) Information and communication technologies statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Partnership on Measuring Information and Communication Technologies for Development

(g) International Comparison Programme;

Documentation

Report of the World Bank

(h) Price statistics.

Documentation

Report of the Intersecretariat Working Group on Price Statistics

6. Natural resources and environment statistics:

(a) Environmental accounting.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

7. Activities not classified by field:

(a) Coordination and integration of statistical programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities

(b) Management issues in national statistical offices;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(c) Implementation of the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(d) Common open standards for the exchange and sharing of data and metadata;

Documentation

Report of the Task Force to Establish Standards on Data and Metadata Exchange

(e) Coordination of ongoing methodological work;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(f) Statistical capacity-building;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

Report of the Steering Committee of the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the Twenty-first Century

(g) Development indicators;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(h) Follow-up to Economic and Social Council policy decisions;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(i) Working methods of the Statistical Commission;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(j) Regional statistical development.

Documentation

Report of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

8. Programme questions (United Nations Statistics Division).

9. Provisional agenda and dates for the forty-first session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-first session of the Commission

Note by the Secretariat on the draft multi-year programme of work of the Commission

10. Report of the Commission on its fortieth session.

2008/239
Human settlements

At its 41st plenary meeting, on 23 July 2008 the Economic and Social Council, recalling its relevant resolutions on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda:[34]

(a) Took note of the report of the Secretary-General on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda;[35]

(b) Decided to transmit the report to the General Assembly for consideration at its sixty-third session;

[34] *Report of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), Istanbul, 3-14 June 1996* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.97.IV.6), chap. I, resolution 1, annex II.

[35] E/2008/64.

(c) Requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda for consideration by the Economic and Social Council at its substantive session of 2009.

2008/240
Report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-first session and provisional agenda for its forty-second session

At its 41st plenary meeting, on 23 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the Commission on Population and Development on its forty-first session;[36]

(b) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-second session of the Commission on Population and Development

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

   Documentation

   Provisional agenda for the forty-second session of the Commission

   Note by the Secretariat on the organization of the work of the session

   Report of the Bureau of the Commission on its intersessional meetings

3. Follow-up actions to the recommendations of the International Conference on Population and Development.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

   Report of the Secretary-General on the monitoring of population programmes, focusing on the contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals

   Report of the Secretary-General on the flow of financial resources for assisting in the implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development

[36] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 5* (E/2008/25).

4. Contribution of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development to the internationally agreed development goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

5. Programme implementation and future programme of work of the Secretariat in the field of population.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on world demographic trends

Report of the Secretary-General on programme implementation and progress of work in the field of population in 2008

6. Contribution of population and development issues to the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2009.

7. Provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission.

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat containing the draft provisional agenda for the forty-third session of the Commission

8. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-second session.

2008/241
Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names and twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names

At its 41st plenary meeting, on 23 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided:

(a) To take note of the report of the Ninth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names, held in New York from 21 to 30 August 2007;[37]

(b) To endorse the recommendation that the Tenth United Nations Conference on the Standardization of Geographical Names be convened in 2012;[38]

(c) To endorse the recommendation that the twenty-fifth session of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names be convened in the first half of 2009.[39]

2008/242
Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the environment and cartography

At its 41st plenary meeting, on 23 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Governing Council of the United Nations Environment

[37] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.1.4.

[38] Ibid., chap. III, resolution IX/1, para. 1.

[39] Ibid., para. 2.

Programme on its tenth special session, held from 20 to 22 February 2008[40] and the report of the United Nations Group of Experts on Geographical Names on the work of its twenty-fourth session, held in New York on 21 and 31 August 2007.[41]

2008/243
Document considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples by the specialized agencies and the international institutions associated with the United Nations

At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 24 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Secretary-General on assistance to the Palestinian people.[42]

2008/244
Report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-sixth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-seventh session of the Commission

At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 24 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the Commission for Social Development on its forty-sixth session;[43]

(b) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-seventh session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the forty-seventh session of the Commission for Social Development

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
3. Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly:

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretary-General on the social dimensions of the New Partnership for Africa's Development

   Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of Economic and Social Council resolution 2008/18 entitled "Promoting full employment and decent work for all"

---

[40] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 25* (A/63/25).
[41] E/2007/89.
[42] A/63/75-E/2008/52.
[43] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 6* (E/2008/26).

(a) Priority theme: social integration;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General

(b) Review of relevant United Nations plans and programmes of action pertaining to the situation of social groups:

(i) World Programme of Action concerning Disabled Persons;

(ii) World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond;

(iii) Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002;

(iv) Family issues, policies and programmes;

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth

Report of the Secretary-General on the strategic implementation framework for the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002

Note by the Secretary-General on the monitoring of the implementation of the Standard Rules on the Equalization of Opportunities for Persons with Disabilities

(c) Emerging issues.

4. Programme questions and other matters:

(a) Programme performance and implementation for the biennium 2006-2007;

(b) Proposed programme of work for the biennium 2010-2011;

(c) United Nations Research Institute for Social Development.

Documentation

Note by the Secretary-General on the nomination of members of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of the United Nations Research Institute for Social Development

Note by the Secretariat transmitting the draft programme of work of the Division for Social Policy and Development for the biennium 2010-2011

5. Provisional agenda for the forty-eighth session of the Commission.

6. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its forty-seventh session.

2008/245
Report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventeenth session and provisional agenda and documentation for the eighteenth session of the Commission

At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 24 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council:

(a) Took note of the report of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice on its seventeenth session;[44]

(b) Decided that the topics for the thematic discussion at the eighteenth session of the Commission would be:

(i) "Economic fraud and identity-related crime";

(ii) "Penal reform and the reduction of prison overcrowding, including the provision of legal aid in criminal justice systems";

(c) Also decided that the discussion on each of the themes would have a duration of one day;

(d) Approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the eighteenth session of the Commission as set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the eighteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

A. Provisional agenda

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Thematic discussion:
   (a) "Economic fraud and identity-related crime";
   (b) "Penal reform and the reduction of prison overcrowding, including the provision of legal aid in criminal justice systems".
4. World crime trends and responses: integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice:
   (a) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime;
   (b) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the United Nations Convention against Corruption;
   (c) Work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in facilitating the ratification and implementation of the international instruments to prevent and combat terrorism;

[44] Ibid., *Supplement No. 10* (E/2008/30).

(d) Other activities in support of the work of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in particular activities of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network, non-governmental organizations and other bodies.

5. Preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

6. Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

7. Policy directives for the crime programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body, including administrative, strategic management and budgetary questions and follow-up to resolutions.

8. Provisional agenda for the nineteenth session.

9. Other business.

10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighteenth session.

B. Documentation

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.

Documentation

Provisional agenda, annotations and proposed organization of work

3. Thematic discussion:

(a) "Economic fraud and identity-related crime";

(b) "Penal reform and reduction of prison overcrowding, including the provision of legal aid in criminal justice systems".

Documentation

Note by the Secretariat (*as required*)

4. World crime trends and responses: integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in combating transnational organized crime and corruption

Report of the Secretary-General on assistance in implementing the universal conventions and protocols related to terrorism

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation in the prevention, investigation, prosecution and punishment of economic fraud and identity-related crime

Report of the Executive Director on the activities of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Report of the Executive Director on international cooperation in preventing and combating illicit international trafficking in forest products, including timber, wildlife and other forest biological resources

Report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the institutes of the United Nations Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Programme network

Note by the Secretariat on world crime trends and responses: integration and coordination of efforts by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and by Member States in the field of crime prevention and criminal justice (*as required*)

5. Preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on the follow-up to General Assembly resolution 63/___, entitled "Preparations for the Twelfth United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice"

6. Use and application of United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice.

Documentation

Report of the Secretary-General on United Nations standards and norms in crime prevention and criminal justice

Report of the Secretary-General on support of national efforts for child justice reform, in particular through technical assistance and improved United Nations system-wide coordination

Report of the Secretary-General on international cooperation for the improvement of access to legal aid in criminal justice systems, particularly in Africa

7. Policy directives for the crime programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the role of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice as its governing body, including administrative, strategic management and budgetary questions and follow-up to resolutions.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director on the implementation of the consolidated budget for the biennium 2008-2009 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Report of the Executive Director on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (*to be submitted for the reconvened eighteenth session*)

Report of the Executive Director on programmes and initiatives to be implemented by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in the biennium 2010-2011 (*as required*)

Report of the Executive Director on ways and means of improving the financial situation of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (*as required*)

Report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions on the consolidated budget for the biennium 2010-2011 for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (*to be submitted for the reconvened eighteenth session*)

Note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

8. Provisional agenda for the nineteenth session.

9. Other business.

10. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its eighteenth session.

2008/246
Appointment of members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute

At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 24 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided to endorse the reappointment of Pedro R. David (Argentina) and the appointment of Eduardo Fungairiño (Spain), by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice at its seventeenth session, to the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute.

2008/247
Report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-first session and provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-second session of the Commission

At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 24 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs on its fifty-first session[45] and approved the provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-second session of the Commission set out below:

Provisional agenda and documentation for the fifty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs

1. Election of officers.

2. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.

Documentation

Provisional agenda, annotations and provisional programme of work

[45] Ibid., *Supplement No. 8* (E/2008/28).

Normative segment

3. Thematic debate (*theme and sub-themes to be identified*).

4. Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly: general overview and progress achieved by Governments in meeting the goals and targets for the years 2003 and 2008 set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the Assembly at its twentieth special session.

   Documentation

   Reports of the Secretariat (*as necessary*)

5. Drug demand reduction:

   (a) Action Plan for the Implementation of the Declaration on the Guiding Principles of Drug Demand Reduction;

   (b) World situation with regard to drug abuse.

   Documentation

   Report of the Secretariat

6. Illicit drug traffic and supply:

   (a) World situation with regard to drug trafficking and action taken by subsidiary bodies of the Commission;

   (b) Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly:

      (i) Measures to promote judicial cooperation (extradition, mutual legal assistance, controlled delivery, trafficking by sea and law enforcement cooperation, including training);

      (ii) Countering money-laundering;

      (iii) Action Plan on International Cooperation on the Eradication of Illicit Drug Crops and on Alternative Development.

   Documentation

   Reports of the Secretariat

7. Implementation of the international drug control treaties:

   (a) Changes in the scope of control of substances;

   (b) International Narcotics Control Board;

   (c) International cooperation to ensure the availability of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances for medical and scientific purposes;

   (d) Follow-up to the twentieth special session of the General Assembly:

      (i) Measures to prevent the illicit manufacture, import, export, trafficking, distribution and diversion of precursors used in the illicit manufacture of narcotic drugs and psychotropic substances;

      (ii) Action Plan against Illicit Manufacture, Trafficking and Abuse of Amphetamine-type Stimulants and Their Precursors;

   (e) Other matters arising from the international drug control treaties.

Documentation

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2008

Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2008 on the implementation of article 12 of the United Nations Convention against Illicit Traffic in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances of 1988

Notes by the Secretariat (*as necessary*)

Operational segment

8. Policy directives to the drug programme of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director

9. Strengthening the United Nations machinery for drug control.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director

10. Administrative and budgetary questions.

Documentation

Report of the Executive Director

High-level segment

11. Opening of the high-level segment.

12. General debate of the high-level segment: review of the progress achieved and the difficulties encountered by Member States in meeting the goals and targets set out in the Political Declaration adopted by the General Assembly at its twentieth special session; challenges for the future.

13. Round-table discussions of the high-level segment:

(a) Current and emerging challenges, new trends and patterns of the world drug problem and possible improvements to the evaluation system;

(b) Strengthening international cooperation in countering the world drug problem using shared responsibility as a basis for an integrated, comprehensive, balanced and sustainable approach in the fight against drugs through domestic and international policies;

(c) Demand reduction, treatment and preventive policies and practices;

(d) Countering illicit drug traffic and supply, and alternative development.

14. Outcome of the high-level segment.

15. Closure of the high-level segment.

16. Provisional agenda for the fifty-third session of the Commission.

17. Other business.

18. Adoption of the report of the Commission on its fifty-second session.

2008/248
Report of the International Narcotics Control Board

At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 24 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council took note of the report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2007.[46]

2008/249
International expert group meeting on the implementation of article 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples

At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 24 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided to authorize a three-day international expert group meeting on the implementation of article 42 of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples[47] and request that the results of the meeting be reported to the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues at its eighth session.

2008/250
Venue and dates of the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 24 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided that the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues should be held at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 18 to 29 May 2009.

2008/251
Provisional agenda and documentation for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

At its 42nd plenary meeting, on 24 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council approved the following provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues:

Provisional agenda for the eighth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues

1. Election of officers.
2. Adoption of the agenda and organization of work.
3. Follow-up to the recommendations of the Permanent Forum on:
   (a) Economic and social development;

[46] *Report of the International Narcotics Control Board for 2007* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.08.XI.1).

[47] General Assembly resolution 61/295, annex.

(b) Indigenous women;

(c) Second International Decade of the World's Indigenous People.

4. Human rights:

(a) Implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples;

(b) Dialogue with the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples and other special rapporteurs.

5. Half-day discussion on the Arctic.

6. Comprehensive dialogue with six United Nations agencies and funds.

7. Future work of the Permanent Forum, including issues of the Economic and Social Council and emerging issues.

8. Draft agenda for the ninth session of the Permanent Forum.

9. Adoption of the report of the Permanent Forum on its eighth session.

2008/252
Document considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the substantive session of 2007 of the Council

At its 43rd plenary meeting, on 24 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on the role of the United Nations system in implementing the ministerial declaration of the high-level segment of the 2007 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council.[48]

2008/253
Document considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided to take note of the note by the Secretary-General on the economic and social repercussions of the Israeli occupation on the living conditions of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and of the Arab population in the occupied Syrian Golan.[49]

[48] E/2008/21.

[49] A/63/74-E/2008/21.

2008/254
Report of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration on its seventh session and provisional agenda for its eighth session

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided:

(a) To approve the convening of the eighth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration from 30 March to 3 April 2009 on the main theme "The human factor in capacity-building and development";

(b) To also approve the following agenda for the eighth session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration:

1. The human factor in capacity-building and development.
2. Compendium of basic United Nations terminology in governance and public administration.
3. Review of the United Nations Programme on Public Administration, Finance and Development.
4. Public administration perspective on the theme of the 2009 annual ministerial review: "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to global public health".

2008/255
Enlargement of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council, recalling General Assembly resolution 1166 (XII) of 26 November 1957, in which the Assembly had requested the Council to establish the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, as well as subsequent Assembly resolutions, in which the membership of the Executive Committee was increased:

(a) Took note of the requests to enlarge the membership of the Executive Committee of the Programme of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees contained in the letter dated 29 February 2008 from the Permanent Representative of Djibouti to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General[50] and the letter dated 30 May 2008 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General;[51]

(b) Recommended that the General Assembly, at its sixty-third session, decide on the question of enlarging the membership of the Executive Committee from seventy-six to seventy-eight States.

[50] E/2008/63.
[51] E/2008/84.

2008/256
Documents considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with social and human rights questions

At its 44th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided to take note of the following documents:

(a) Report of the Committee on the Rights of the Child;[52]

(b) Report of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on its thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth sessions;[53]

(c) Report of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues on its seventh session;[54]

(d) Report of the Secretary-General on the role of the Economic and Social Council in the integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits, in the light of relevant General Assembly resolutions, including resolution 61/16;[55]

(e) Report of the Secretary-General on future work to strengthen the International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women;[56]

(f) Report of the Executive Board of the United Nations International Research and Training Institute for the Advancement of Women on the work of its fifth session;[57]

(g) Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;[58]

(h) Note by the Secretariat on the report on the results of the fortieth session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women;[59]

(i) Oral report delivered by the Deputy Director of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, on behalf of the High Commissioner.

2008/257
Theme for the 2009 thematic discussion of the Economic and Social Council

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided to adopt the following theme for its 2009 thematic discussion: "Current global and national trends and their impact on social development, including public health".

---

[52] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Sixty-third Session, Supplement No. 41* (A/63/41).
[53] *Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 2008, Supplement No. 2* (E/2008/22).
[54] Ibid., *Supplement No. 23* (E/2008/43).
[55] A/63/83-E/2008/77.
[56] E/2008/62.
[57] E/2008/73.
[58] E/2008/76.
[59] E/2008/91.

2008/258
Multi-year programme of work for the 2010 and 2011 annual ministerial reviews of the Economic and Social Council

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided to adopt the following themes for its annual ministerial-level substantive reviews for 2010 and 2011:

(a) 2010: "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to gender equality and empowerment of women";

(b) 2011: "Implementing the internationally agreed goals and commitments in regard to education".

2008/259
Document considered by the Economic and Social Council in connection with special economic, humanitarian and disaster relief assistance

At its 45th plenary meeting, on 25 July 2008, the Economic and Social Council decided to take note of the report of the Secretary-General on strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation, reconstruction, recovery and prevention in the aftermath of the Indian Ocean tsunami disaster.[60]

[60] A/63/84-E/2008/80.